

HOME NEWS

Photograph all identity parades, Lord Widgery suggests

By Marcel Berlin
Legal Correspondent

Taking photographs of identity parades in criminal cases could reduce the chances of mistaken identification, Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, suggested yesterday.

Addressing the annual conference of the Magistrates' Association in London, Lord Widgery said that he could see nothing but good in a rule requiring all identity parades to be photographed.

Where the defence in a trial sought to argue that the parade was unfair, because for instance, the suspect looked different and stood out from the other persons in the parade, the court could look at the photographs and see for itself.

The misidentification of suspects in criminal cases was "the most serious chink in our armour when we say that British justice is the best in the world", the Lord Chief Justice said.

He hoped that judges and magistrates would take advantage of the "three or four striking cases this year, very unhappy experiences", to think more deeply on problems of identification. He mentioned specifically the Barn Restaurant murder, and the case of Mr Luke Dougherty, who was sent to prison on the basis of mistaken identification.

As a result of the Dougherty case, and that of Mr L. Viras, who spent nearly five years in prison after being wrongly identified.

Soviet help was sought over missing trawler

The Russians were asked for any information they had about the missing 1,106-ton Hull trawler, Gaul, which vanished with all 36 of the crew in high seas off Norway last February.

Captain Wilfred Lusted, senior nautical surveyor at the Department of Trade with responsibility for investigating casualties, told the inquiry at Hull yesterday that the Russians were unable to help but promised to inform the British Government if anything came to light.

Several other nations were also asked if they had any news of the trawler, he added.

Captain Lusted also said that it was not thought practicable to send a submarine to search for the wreck of the Gaul because there were many wrecks in the area.

Wheelchair man loses claim against surgeon

Mr Reginald Lockwood, aged 53, who is now confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life, failed in his claim at the High Court in Leeds yesterday for damages against a surgeon and a health authority.

Mr Lockwood, a former colliery overseer, of Sackup Lane, Darton, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, had claimed damages for alleged negligence from Miss Carys Margaret Bannister, now senior registrar in the neurosurgery department of Leeds Infirmary, and her employers, Leeds Area Health Authority (Teaching). Negligence was denied.

The court had been told that Mr Lockwood had an exploratory operation after a test had suggested that he had a spinal tumour. There was no tumour, and he had been paraplegic since the operation.

At the end of counsel's speeches yesterday Mr Justice Thompson said he had decided that the claim failed but would give his reasons today. Mr Owen Stable, QC, for Miss Bannister, said there would be no application for costs.

Yesterday Miss Bannister said that she had made an incision in the operation above where she intended, but did not regard the spot to be crucial.

Referring to a headline in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* on Wednesday night, the judge said: "That was a very tendentious heading: 'Surgeon admits she went in at the wrong place'."

Mr Clifford Lauriston, QC, for Mr Lockwood, said: "Yes. That was never my understanding of anything. Miss Bannister said yesterday, and there is a similar heading in *The Times*."

Mr Stable said: "The headline has caused some distress."

Cannabis smuggled from Morocco in ambulance

Young drug smugglers who dubbed themselves "The Three Rakebees" brought drugs into England from cannabis farms of Morocco worth nearly £24,000. It was stated at Chelmsford Crown Court, Essex, yesterday. Mr. Robert Harman, for the defence of one of the three, said:

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Move to reopen Flixborough fertilizer plant

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Union spend £140,000 supporting Labour

By Alan Hamilton
Labour Staff

The Transport and General Workers' Union, the country's largest, spent more than £140,000 in direct support for the Labour Party during 1973, the union's annual report, published yesterday shows.

Courts should pay more attention to factors that favoured the accused, he said, such as the fact that, although a particular suspect had been identified by some witnesses, others had failed to identify him, or had picked out someone else.

He was not in favour of a rule making it a requirement for any identification evidence to be corroborated in some other way. "It would be monstrous if the law stepped in and said: 'You must have this man go because there is no corroborative evidence.'

But courts should always bear in mind that it was dangerous to convict on identification evidence alone.

Earlier at a Magistrates' Association luncheon, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said the rule of law was in greater danger today than it had been for hundreds of years. Examples were the response to the imprisonment of the five dockers by the National Industrial Relations Court, and the refusal of a trade union to pay £124,000 in affiliation fees to the Labour Party.

Affiliation fees are based on the union's total membership, excluding those who opt out of the political levy, which forms part of the normal weekly subscription; the annual report shows that TGWU membership rose by 39,262 during 1973 to reach a total of 1,785,496.

Mr Jack Jones, the union's general secretary, says in the report: "It is true that for a long period ahead the country is likely to face severe economic difficulties, but the strength and influence of the union must be used to avoid the placing of a disproportionate share of the economic burden upon the shoulders of working people and their families."

Accounts show that the income to the union's political fund during 1973 totalled £242,420, and at the end of the year the assets totalled £138,811. Since then, however, the union has given special donations to help Labour to fight two general elections, and the fund is now likely to be much depleted.

Total funds for the union at the end of the year were £20,324,458, making it far and away the richest union in the country. Of the total, about £18m was held in the general fund. Total income for the year amounted to just over £13m, of which nearly £12m came from members' contributions.

Pop hearing fixed

January 6 has been set as the date for the hearing of claims for damages by Windsor pop festival fans against Mr David Holdsworth, Chief Constable of Thames Valley.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Students call off arts centre occupation

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Students at Warwick University called off their two-day occupation of the university's new film arts centre yesterday. The opening ceremony will go ahead as planned tomorrow.

Earlier Lord Radcliffe, the university's chancellor, had told the university that he could not preside at the ceremony if there was any threat of disruption by students.

The occupation, by between 100 and 250 students, was over the appointment of Ms Jeff Staniforth to the £4,000-a-year post of permanent secretary of the new union building, which is due to open in April. Mr Staniforth, aged 30, is a communist and former treasurer of the National Union of Students.

The university had issued a statement saying that it did not question the union's powers to make appointments within its financial competence. But it maintained that Mr John Sanderson, the union's administrative officer, must continue in his post while negotiations for a permanent secretary continued.

The students held a union general meeting at which it was decided to call off the occupation and not to disrupt the ceremony. Mr Staniforth was appointed financial controller of the union at the same salary. Mr Rob Marshall, the union's secretary, said the university authorities had climbed down and had given them half of the funds they were claiming.

Mr Staniforth said: "The terms of the job seem to be the same. I am not concerned about the title."

At the ceremony tomorrow honorary degrees will be conferred on Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Sir Michael Tippett, Dr Leonard Bernstein and M. Eugene Ionesco.

Music can calm vandals, says psychologist

From Our Correspondent

Harrogate

Music could be one of the most effective ways of combating vandalism. Professor John Cohen, Head of the Department of Psychology at Manchester University, told the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene conference in Harrogate yesterday.

He said that local authorities could gain enormous benefits by investing in musical instruments to give every pupil the chance to play.

"If a boy plays an instrument that gives him self-satisfaction, this can lead him away from mischief. If a local authority were to spend £10,000 on instruments the subject would be given much more prestige", Professor Cohen said.

Afterwards, Professor Cohen added: "I am not claiming that music is the complete solution to vandalism, but it is as good a therapy as any I can think of. Music calms the savage breast."

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Young drug smugglers

HOME NEWS

Scientist puts odds at three to one on a nuclear weapon being used in a conflict before 1984

By Pearce Wright
Science Correspondent

A single international agency should take over the processing and monitoring of world supplies of plutonium and enriched uranium. Professor Bernard Feld, secretary general of the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, said last night. He is professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an adviser to previous American Administrations.

Professor Feld, giving the Bernal Peace Library lecture in London, said his was a serious proposal made to take some of the tension out of the dangerous development in the nuclear field. Continued development and testing of nuclear weapons had produced odds of about three to one on a nuclear device being used in a conflict before 1984. He suggested the chances of a nuclear war occurring in the remaining 25 years of this century were even worse.

The Yom Kippur war had demonstrated the fragility of the Soviet-American detente and the world's vulnerability to the Arab oil weapon. All five senior nuclear nations had conducted tests in the past year. India had entered the "nuclear club", and the technologically advanced nations were racing toward dependence on nuclear energy, with a willingness to spread their technology into the third world in return for scarce raw materials or political influence.

Professor Feld deplored the shift in the two big nuclear powers from a strategic doctrine of deterrence, or nuclear weapons for use in a retaliatory second-strike only, towards a doctrine of counterforce or offensive first-strikes that allowed development and deployment of so-called mini-nukes in the European theatre.

Finally, the Moscow summit meeting in summer was a debacle that postponed until 1984 the promised progress with nuclear arms limitations beyond the slow start of 1972.

The response to the worldwide demand for an end to nuclear weapons testing was a proposed ban on underground tests exceeding threshold

power of 150,000 tons of TNT, adding up to a large step backward. The limits on the numbers of missile launchers permitted to both sides were well in excess of the numbers before the agreement, and the promise of substantial cuts within five years had been postponed for at least another decade.

All those events eroded confidence and raised the question whether the non-proliferation theory could survive its scheduled review conference in 1975.

After almost thirty years of intensive effort we were behind where we started. Destructive aspects of nuclear arms were expanding almost unhindered. The understanding that nuclear weapons must never again be used seemed in danger of evaporating.

The rule seemed to be that only those weapons or activities could be eliminated or banned that were of no interest to any substantial fraction of the military groups on both sides.

He was still astonished at the way the opportunity was lost to turn the first apparent success of Soviet-American negotiations to control nuclear weapons under the Moscow Test-ban agreement of 1963 into a genuine breakthrough.

Intellectuals tended to divide the world into peace-loving and aggressive nations. Of these, they differed about which nation fired into which classification, and they saw the problem of ensuring peace as one of getting aggressive nations to behave like peace-loving ones.

Achieving that depended primarily on the process of negotiation between sovereign states.

Professor Feld was so sure. He said his experience over 15 years, involving a wide variety of international meetings, had convinced him that what was a dangerous delusion.

Every country had people whose basic orientation was peaceful, and people who firmly believed in efficacy of force; or, using an oversimplified terminology, the doves and hawks.

He was convinced that the achievement of peace and international order depended more on the cessation of nuclear tests in the atmosphere by the United States and the Soviet Union. Even with the comparatively small number of subsequent atmospheric nuclear explosions by France and China, a serious worldwide menace to the health of present and future generations of all peoples was eliminated.

But he had harsh words for the military hardliners of both sides responsible for the impasse. He described the results to date of the SALT talks as

10 times the strength of the first bomb, and even that would not take effect until 1976.

The agreement to permit replacement of older missiles by all-liquid newer models was even more absurd, and had brought a more than 10-fold increase in the destructive capacity of both sides.

Having painted such a bleak picture, he felt obliged to point to some directions that might reverse the trends. It was essential to go back to the original Oppenheimer-Lilienthal approach.

The processing and distribution of plutonium was amenable to international supervision. It was not beyond the ingenuity of man to devise a system by which all plutonium and possibly highly enriched uranium, would be separated, processed, shipped and recovered by a single agency, while guaranteeing equitable access to the supply for all responsible users.

The question of verifying each side's complying had been the stumbling-block from the start. All cases could be resolved except for monitoring possible underground tests.

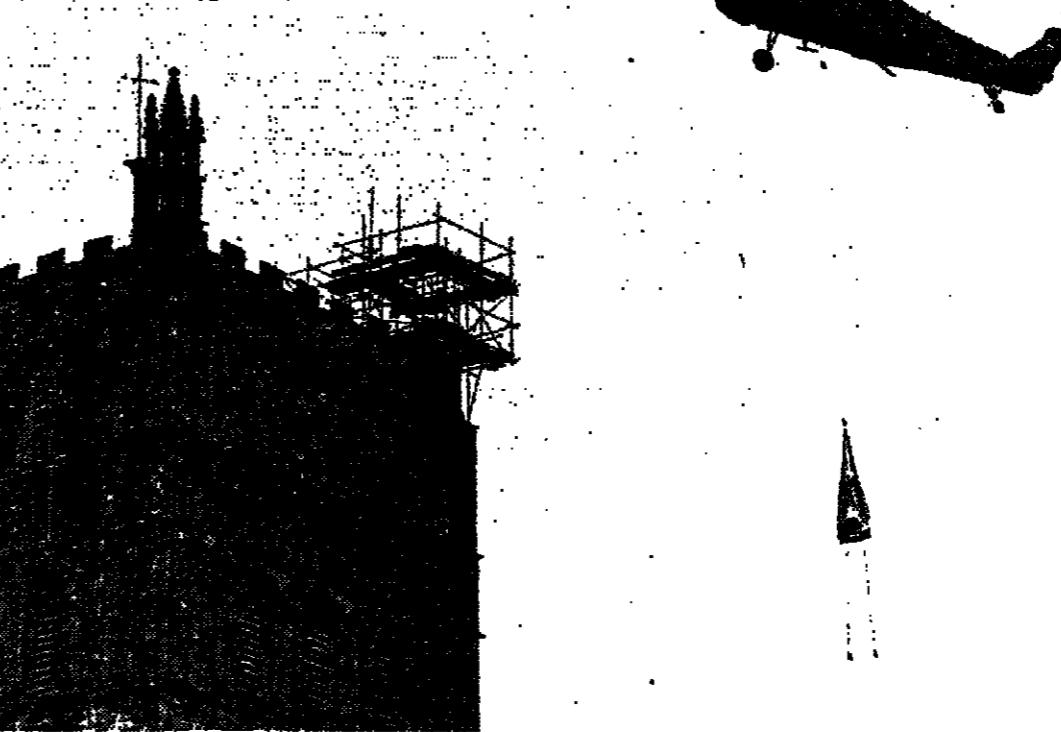
There remained some questions about identifying small underground explosions. The American side wanted a few mandatory on-site inspections. They insisted on seven a year.

The Soviet side was finally willing to accept three inspections a year. "Unbelievable as it seems in retrospect, the negotiations founded on the inability to compromise between the two arbitrary numbers of seven and three, with the result that underground nuclear tests were completely left out of the final agreement.

"We should not underestimate the benefits to mankind of the cessation of nuclear tests in the atmosphere by the United States and the Soviet Union. Even with the comparatively small number of subsequent atmospheric nuclear explosions by France and China, a serious worldwide menace to the health of present and future generations of all peoples was eliminated."

"I just thought something had happened to the coach, then I shone my torch on the disaster. There were people hanging everywhere. The lads who were all right in the front of the coach came to give a hand."

The coach driver, who



Four tons of stone being lifted by RAF helicopter to the top of the great Norman tower of Tewkesbury Abbey to replace the south-west pinnacle, which had to be taken down after gale damage. The tower, completed about 1145, is believed to be the largest Norman tower extent.

Coach driver tells of bomb disaster on M62

The driver of the army coach that exploded on the M62 in February described at Wakefield Crown Court, West Yorkshire, yesterday, the journey, which ended with the deaths of 12 people. He wrote down his name and address on a piece of paper and passed it to Mr Justice Waller.

He said: "We had just passed the Harehead Moor service station when a lad came and asked if he could go to the toilet. But I had just missed it.

"Moments after that, there was the bang and the windscreen hit me. I cannot remember much. I pulled up and jumped out of the emergency door. There were just screams. I could not see anything. It was a very dark part of the motorway. I ran round to get a torch and the lads were jumping out of the windows.

"I just thought something had happened to the coach, then I shone my torch on the disaster. There were people hanging everywhere. The lads who were all right in the front of the coach came to give a hand."

The coach driver, who

described himself as director of a coach operating company, said he was travelling at about 50 to 55 mph. "Traffic was very light. It was quiet and peaceful all the way. There was not a sound, except for the music. Then this bang."

He was giving evidence on the sixth day of the trial of Judith Theresa Ward, aged 25, of Stockport, Greater Manchester, who is accused of murdering the 12 people who died when the coach exploded.

She is also accused of causing explosions at the National Defence College, at Latimer, Buckinghamshire; at Euston Station, London; and on the coach on the M62. She has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The driver said that the coach service was advertised and the coach door was left open at the Charlton Street bus depot in Manchester, where it started from. There was no control at that time on loading luggage.

He said he used the coach regularly after weekend leaves in the Manchester area, and on a few occasions had seen an old black Austin car with running boards parked in Portland Street near the coach station.

He saw two men in the car

who might have been watching the coach. He saw the car there on the two weekends before the explosion and on the night of the blast.

On Sunday, February 3, he

saw a man near the back of the coach. The man seemed to come from the back and then stand at the side of a bank on the corner of the street. He could not say whether the man had come from the car.

He described the man he saw on the night of the explosion as of slim build, about 5ft 10in tall, wearing a three-quarter length coat and a scarf. He at first thought the man was coloured.

Mr Walsh read the statement of Mr John Barry Clarke, who said he was in a car on the M62 on February 4 and could see the tail lights of a bus about 400 yards ahead. Mr Clarke stated: "Suddenly I was aware of a flash coming from up front of us. The wireless was turned on quite loud and I was not aware of any sound.

"What I remember seeing next is parts of bus seats and metal littering the carriageway in front of us. We ploughed through some of the debris and pulled up on the roadside hard shoulder. I remember hearing terrible screams coming from up the road behind us."

Officials list objections to regional scheme

From John Charlton
Chester

Twelve "areas of disagreement" with the strategic plan for the North-West region have been set out by senior officials of Cheshire County Council.

They include a dislike of the plan's recommendation for a concentration of new growth in the Mersey belt and of its emphasis on the difficulties of underprivileged people in Greater Manchester and Merseyside, with "scant attention" given to those of the rural poor and many of the medium-sized Cheshire towns.

A joint meeting of the strategic planning and transport committees of the council is to be held next week to approve a document drawn up by Mr J. F. N. Collins, county planner, Mr V. A. Knight, director of highways and transport, and Mr G. T. Fletcher, county treasurer, and to forward the observations to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The officials' document emphasizes that the strategic plan, which was completed in July by an independent team, is not intended to be a rigid master plan, but a government policy, and that discussion on it is likely to go on for several years, with separate conclusions reached on the main recommendations. Nevertheless, the officials say, acceptances of similar plans in five other English regions by both central and local government show that this type of planning at regional level is recognized as having a useful role.

On the strategic plan's recommendation for a concentration of job development in the Mersey belt area the Cheshire officials say that the team has not convincingly demonstrated that the benefits would outweigh the disadvantages to people already living there or to those in "non-growth" areas. The officials say that the degree of concentration proposed might reduce the overall quality of life. They suggest that if approved by the committees and the county council their document should be sent to neighbouring local authorities as well as the county's district councils and that a joint meeting should be arranged between representatives of Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire county councils.

Collars for deer

Brightly coloured collars are being fitted to wild red deer in Thetford Chase Forest, Norfolk, by game wardens to help in a long-term study of the habits and movement of the deer.

The narrow streets of European cities have made us experts in designing compact, manoeuvrable trucks.

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characteristics of our lighter vehicles too. Many of Europe's historic towns present severe problems of congested traffic through narrow crowded streets leading on to high-speed arterial routes that call for fast acceleration and ample power.

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HOME NEWS

Lord Aylestone impressed by professional standards of commercial radio stations

By Kenneth Gosling

Lord Aylestone, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, has expressed himself pleased with the results that independent local radio stations have achieved so far, 12 months after the first, London broadcasting, went on the air.

"I have been impressed", he told me, "by the zeal displayed within the new radio companies and by the growing standard of professionalism."

Everyone, he said, was aware that the establishment of independent local radio as part of the communities they served would take time and effort. "A radio station has to create its own identity and to find the best ways of building and serving its audience." Stations should reflect and provide for their localities, he added.

To find out how one in particular was progressing, one which even the BBC admits has scored probably the biggest success, I went to Glasgow to talk with Mr James Gordon, aged 38, managing director of Radio Clyde, a man who has spent 15 years in broadcasting including 10 as political editor of Scottish Television.

Clyde's annual budget is £640,000 a year; the station began its life by helping the West of Scotland to see in 1974 and up to June managed to break even. There was, as Mr Gordon points out, a backlog of expenditure from setting up the station.

In the July-August period they incurred losses, broke even last month and are already showing a healthy profit for this month. "We are confident we will end our first trading year either breaking even or, more likely, slightly ahead."

Mr Gordon has been shrewd enough being a local man himself ("a Glasgow nationalist") not to patronize his audience or to make the mistake of giving them a wholly tartan diet.

"It would be ridiculous were we to have done this and the people here would have resented being treated as a crowd of savages inhabiting tundra. Now we feel we have an almost tangible bond with our listeners and if we walked down the street I would be surprised if seven out of 10 did not know Radio Clyde and five out of 10 positively liked it."

So it has become a station that in its schedules preserves a careful mixture of news and current affairs, sport, pop, light-classical and classical music, plenty of outside broadcasts (at present it has its disc jockeys operating from a mobile caravan at an exhibition in the Kelvin Hall) and some phone-ins but these are restricted to discussions of specific matters and not as broadly based and consequently as sprawling as some others have become.

Mr Gordon quoted two findings of listener research for me



Mr Robert Danvers-Walker with the number plate which tells of his life's work.

covering the 8.15 am and the 10.45 to 11 pm time-slot: they produced total population percentages of 18.1 and 5.5 respectively—and even the last figure means 100,000 people!"

He reckons that they have the best broadcasting voice in Britain with Alastair Dunnett and an equally well known one in Ken Sykora, who presents a big band show.

Teenie adulation is heaped on "Tiger Tim" Stevens, who wrote in for a disc-jockey's job failed to find the station, which was understandable, as it has no signs outside ("the kids pinch them all"), Mr Gordon's secretary said, but then made a hilarious tape about his misadventures.

James Gordon is an enthusiast about local radio stations and especially his own, but he is above all a realist. From a financial point of view it is foolish, he knows, to attempt predictions as the economy stands today. But he is positive that the future of radio lies in local

phones and the announcers would call out, "Hello British listeners, can you hear me?" when the signal strength was weak.

One of the pioneers was Mr Robert Danvers-Walker, who started his broadcasting career in 1932, two years before Luxembourg put itself firmly on the map as a radio station. He was chief announcer of the International Broadcasting Company, which had its head office in London and bought time on E class stations, which operated in France and Spain.

Radio Normandy was one of those stations and it reached huge peaks of popularity in the nine years it broadcast until the war killed it.

"It grew into a small empire," Mr Danvers-Walker recalls, "and I was responsible for the presentation of programmes from nine stations on the Continent. Its birthplace was a bayou over a stable in the Normandy fishing town of Fécamp, which was also noted for its Benedictine."

"I had 50 announcers sent over to me and they could not spread the lack of pace in this little town; not even the Benedictine could keep them there. Lack of pace never affected the programmes and there was never a gap between music and voice, voice and music; there developed a style of presentation which set the pattern for the future."

The programmes kept up their uninterrupted flow until 3 am until the war, in spite of some hostility from the French authorities; "they were not too keen on us but they liked our money", Mr Danvers-Walker says.

In 1939 he was pressed into service by the French to broadcast propaganda against Dr Goebbels, and that got him on to the Gestapo's black list. The battle of words later got another recruit from Britain, Mr William Joyce, and this time broadcasting from the other side when as "Lord Haw-Haw" he was beamed from the captured Radio Luxembourg.

Today the veteran broadcaster, newsread commentator (Mr Danvers-Walker made the Guinness Book of Records on the strength of 30 years' service for Pathé News) and quiz-show mainstay of Hughie Green's "Take Your Pick" delights in the title of "doyen of commercial radio announcers".

To mark his close affinity with that medium, he has a car with the registration number RAD 10, which he hastens to say did not cost him a fortune, but just a few years of patient waiting until the number came up.

He goes on broadcasting, with a country programme for BBC radio and some appearances on commercial radio. "If they have half-an-hour to fill they call me."

Scottish teachers' militant group

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

The eruption of a new, militant teachers' organization into west Scotland is another sign of the stress that understaffing and poor conditions are creating in schools in the region.

Within one week the West of Scotland Teachers' Action Group has turned from an organization centred on two schools in Glasgow into one representing more than a thousand staff at 41 schools. This week 1,400 teachers rallied to the group's call for an immediate £15 interim pay rise and a rapid acceleration of the Houghton committee report on teachers' conditions. As a result of their rally more than 20,000 children were sent home when teachers walked out of 38 schools in Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

Although they are sternly critical of the Educational Institute of Scotland, which represents 70 per cent of Scottish teachers, and the other two teaching organizations, the Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association and the Scottish Schoolmasters' Association, the group's stronger brand of militancy may strengthen the hands of the established unions.

Mr Frank McGurk, spokesman for the action group, said they had completely underestimated the strength of feeling among teachers in the west of Scotland about pay and conditions. "Thousands of children now only receive part-time education in Scotland", he said. "Staff at every Roman Catholic secondary school, apart from one, in the Glasgow area now receive extra pay because their staffs are below strength. My own school is 25 per cent understaffed. Naturally, when you have 86 teachers instead of 113 dealing with over 1,800 children every problem becomes enlarged and discipline more difficult."

Mr John Stuart, assistant secretary of the institute, which has been running a work-to-rule for several months in badly affected Scottish schools, said the sudden emergence of the action group demonstrated how angry and bitter Scottish teachers had become about low pay and poor conditions. Their work-to-rule had spread into 288 schools throughout Scotland and as a result more than 100,000 children were now suffering some degree of part-time education.

Membership of the institute had risen sharply. Recruitment increased by a thousand on last year and many of the new members came from schools in west central Scotland. The next stage would be a call for an immediate interim pay increase of 10 per cent backdated to May 24.

Americans show no interest in 'Tweedledum and Tweedledee poll'

Daily *The New York Times*, they ask "how are you?". If you try to tell them, their eyes glaze over and they think of other things.

Americans who know, or believe they know, anything about Britain tend to feel that the election has no relevance to the nation's woes because of the interchangeability and equal inadequacies of Tweedledum and Tweedledee. It is assumed that Britain will be in a state of total crisis by Christmas, whoever wins, and they wonder if there might just be a coup in London for a change.

Much less often, and much more briefly and in obscure corners of the same newspaper, there have appeared articles about the British general election. In New York, Mr Wilson is the Governor, who succeeded Mr Rockefeller and is now running for election in November. He is also incomparably more interesting to the Americans of the American north-east despite his natural dullness, than are the electoral difficulties of the Labourite leader of a distant country of which they know little and care less.

The British election has provoked a degree of apathy here which is usually reserved for Italian politics. It is well known that Britain, like Italy, is rapidly going down the drain, and when polite Americans ask, "What are the electoral difficulties of the Americans?" they do not expect to be answered any more than they expect a health bulletin when

they receive a health bulletin when

Mr Wilson would have behaved

in exactly the same way but they have a confused feeling that Tories ought to stand up to Arabs and stand by their allies and that Mr Heath was much to be blamed for failing to do so.

People holding firm views on British politics are few, and they seldom devote much time to contemplating them. It must be very vexing for the ambassador to be so little considered, and to have no possibility of winning a greater esteem for whatever government he may represent next week.

Once or twice a year Dr Kissinger has an hour or two to spend thinking about the Europeans. It generally makes him rather cross. If he consults them, they refuse to accept his proposals and if he does, they complain. He therefore goes about telling everybody that an international depression is probable and that democracy is doomed in Europe and will be replaced by communism.

American newspapers are less apocalyptic, chiefly through lack of interest. Europe gets scarcely more coverage these days than Latin America. After all, changing President and vice-presidents in America is much more fun than yet another crisis election in Britain.

Congratulations to Labour from Europe

From Roger Berthoud
Brussels

Two groups of European socialists have sent Mr Wilson telegrams expressing good wishes for a Labour victory in the election, but also appealing for an end to Labour's boycott of their organizations.

The first came from Mr Georges Spénale, the new French chairman of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament, to which the Labour Party has refused to send a delegation.

It says: "The Socialist Group in the European Parliament wishes you every success in the forthcoming general election, hopes for a decisive Labour victory and looks forward to the day when the Labour Party joins our group in the European Parliament in the fight for a fully democratic and Socialist European Community."

Mr Wilson's second telegram was from Herr Wilhelm Drösser, chairman of the Confederation of Socialist Parties in the EEC, which is affiliated to the Socialist International. The Labour Party stopped sending observers to its meetings when Britain joined the EEC.

Vickers to test new type of miniature submarine

By Our Science Correspondent

Trials begin next month of a new type of miniature submarine from which divers can emerge to work on the bed of the North Sea. Proving dives will take place in a sheltered bay off the north-west coast of Scotland.

One of the shareholders in a new venture with the Vickers shipbuilding group is the National Research Development Corporation. The Government is encouraging industry to develop diving skills needed increasingly for seabed surveys, inspection and maintenance of pipelines, installation of wellheads, and other offshore applications such as burying submarine cables or recovering defence equipment.

Vickers is spending £2,500,000 to develop several vessels and a variety of equipment for underwater work. American, French and Italian organizations have dominated that field hitherto.

Grant increased

The government grant to the Catholic advisory council in support of its family planning work is to be increased from £4,400 to £6,000 for 1974-75.

New directories

The issue of new telephone directories, held up for 11 weeks by industrial action among Stationery Office printers, has been resumed.

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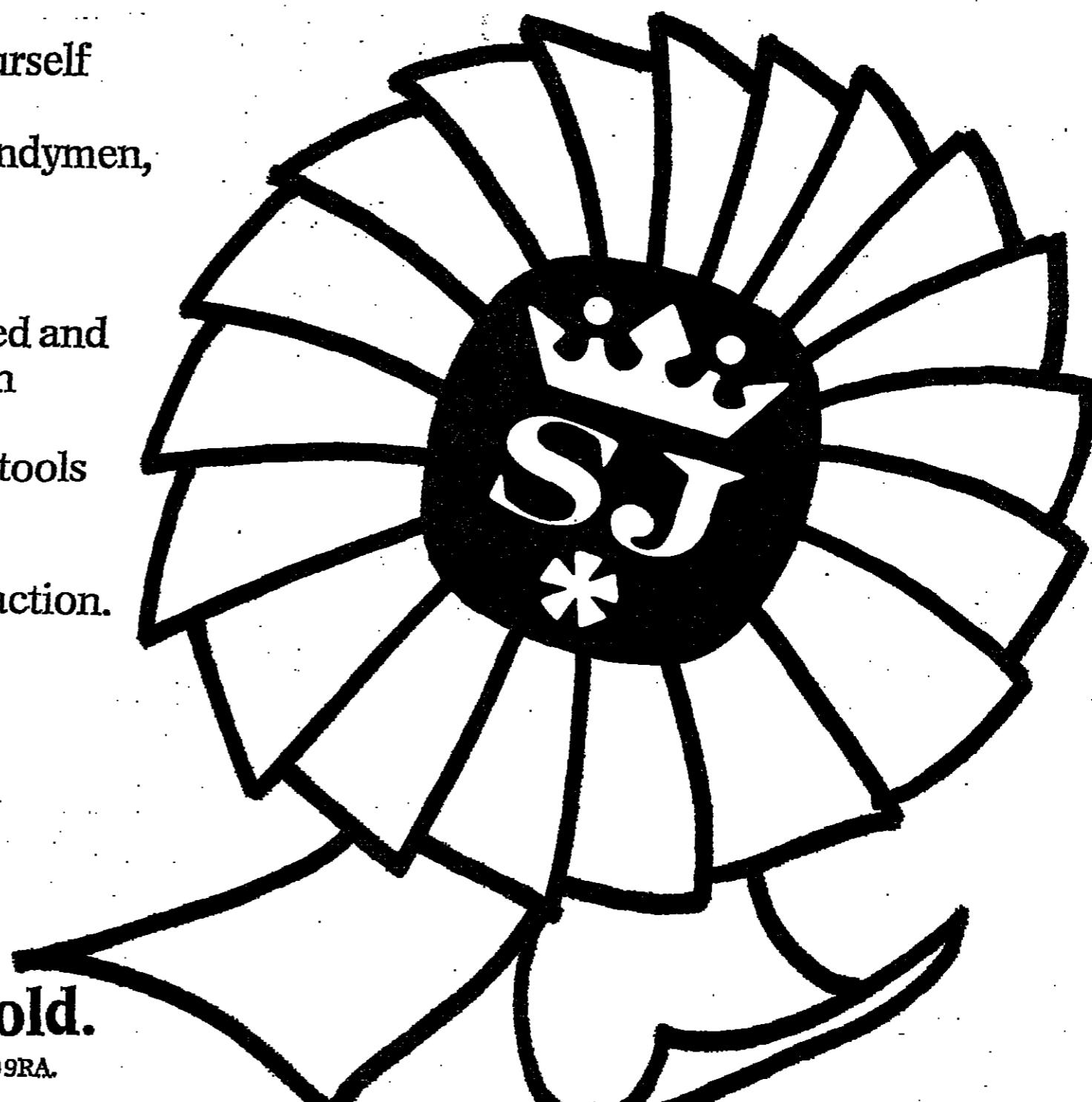
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GENERAL ELECTION



The party leaders were out early yesterday to cast their votes. Mr Heath and Mr Wilson both voted in Westminster and Mr Thorpe at Cobbaton, near Barnstaple.



Left : Mrs Margo MacDonald, Scottish Nationalist candidate for Glasgow, Govan, on her tour of polling stations. Above : Mr Gwynfor Evans, Plaid Cymru, in Carmarthen yesterday with his wife.



Left : Mr Enoch Powell touring Newry in his Down, South, constituency, under the watchful eye of soldiers. In London, Pensioners from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea (above), gather outside their local polling station.

Left : Mr Enoch Powell touring Newry in his Down, South, constituency, under the watchful eye of soldiers. In London, Pensioners from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea (above), gather outside their local polling station.

HOME NEWS

Education authorities' budgets are rising fast because of inflation but bills are met

By Tim Devlin

Education Correspondent

Local education authorities are having to face rises of about a third or more on paper, school books and other materials essential in the classroom. They are having to face increases in their budgets of more than 15 per cent to meet rising teachers' salaries. But reports that they have been unable to meet bills for telephones, books or electricity have been described as absolute nonsense by education officers and county treasurers all over the country.

Mr Conrad Rainbow, chief education officer for Lancashire, one of the four largest authorities in the country, with 250,000 schoolchildren, estimates that inflation in materials such as stationery and books is running this year 30 per cent higher than last year.

A subcommittee of Derbyshire education authority has compiled an inflation index on which the education committee bases its estimates. It showed that between June, 1972, and June, 1973, books and other materials rose in cost by 2.8 per cent in primary schools and 5.5 per cent in secondary schools. But there have been bigger increases since then. Between June, 1972, and July, 1974, the costs have risen by 37.9 per cent in primary and by 47.7 per cent in secondary schools.

The Education Publishers' Council reports that since 1972 printing and binding costs have risen by half and the cost of

paper has doubled.

Part of the difficulty in which authorities find themselves arises from the Conservative Government's directions last year that spending should be based on a 7.5 per cent rise in inflation. Any authority that based its estimates on an inflation rate of 9 per cent or more would be regarded as extravagant.

The Inner London Education Authority, which went ahead on an estimate of 10 per cent in inflation, finds that it needs another £22m (nearly tenth of its gross annual revenue expenditure) on that account alone. It recently announced that it needs a further £10m if it is just to maintain standards and take account of inflation and rises in teachers' salaries in 1975-76.

Cheshire education authority this week announced a further cut of £1.5m in the service. Mr Wynn Davies, deputy director of education, said: "The price of materials has rocketed by 50 per cent in these years, but our capital allowances are still based on 1971 prices."

Norfolk County Council has taken the unusual step of applying a supplement to its budget of £1.1m to collect £1.5m to balance the budget. Mr Ben Taylor, county treasurer, said it was the first time in the history of Norfolk, and probably no other authority, had levied a supplementary rate in the last 10 years.

"Inflation is the problem rather than growth", he said. "If we had been planning for a 7 per cent rise in growth, we

Attack on tendency to centralism in Britain

From Trevor Fishlock

"Power to the people" has been a rallying cry for many years, but in Britain, in spite of the development of democracy, politicians, capitalists and trade unions are seeing to it that power moves away from the people.

Mr John Osmond, Welsh affairs correspondent of the *Western Mail*, explores this theme in a book which analyses and attacks centralist tendencies in British life.

"The victim of centralism is democracy" he writes. "We are moving towards the creation of a corporate state where the hierarchical system of business, industry, government and unions begin to merge. The whole life of a person is processed and packaged. Individual choice is eliminated. People serve the system rather than the other way round."

The author, who has been reporting the developing argument over devolution of power from London to Wales in Scotland, observes: "The talk of promise of evolution is taking place against a background of rapid centralization in services and industry essential to the community. Talk and promise will contribute to an explosion of frustration if it is no more than a cosmetic exercise to shield public attention from the manipulators."

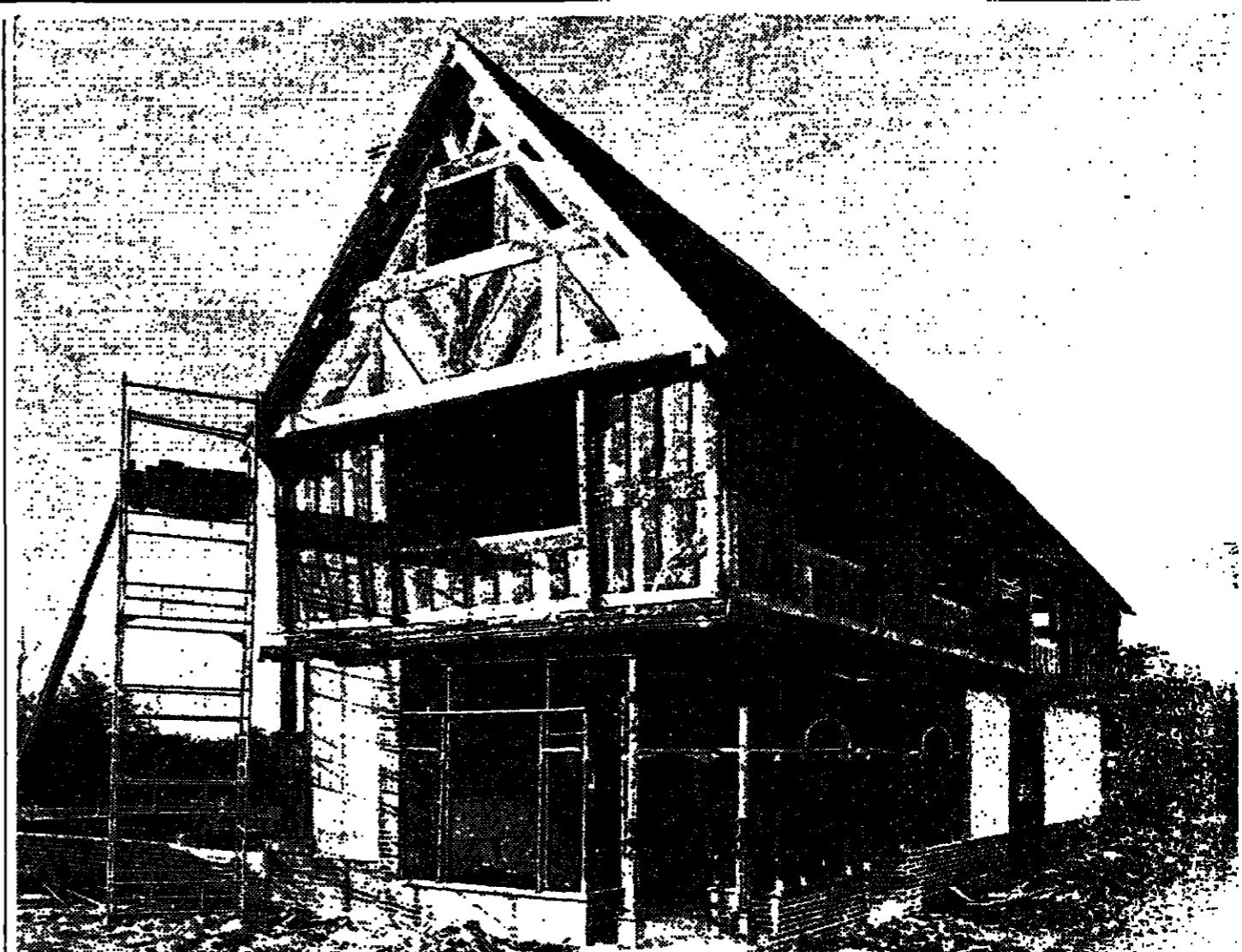
He examines the working of the British Steel Corporation; the health service ("No area of Welsh life has been more blatantly centralized"); the gas industry ("The centralization of the Welsh gas industry was a smooth undercover operation"); and the Civil Service ("where the centralist enemy has its roots").

The book attacks the concept which in the author's view is self-defeating, leading to pollution, overcrowding and diminution of community, the reduction of the very standards of economic growth is supposed to be for.

He says that capitalists and socialists have arrived at centralism by separate roads. Much economic power has been in the hands of a "small oligarchy" of private firms, but nationalized enterprises have ended up in the hands of a managerial bureaucracy just as removed from government and the workers.

The remedy to centralist trends is decentralism, the author asserts, a new philosophy of concentrating on the community and smaller units.

The Centralist Enemy, by John Osmond (Christopher Davies, Llandybie, Dyfed, £1.50).



The String of Horses, which was dismantled to make way for a roundabout at Shrewsbury, being reconstructed at the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. It was converted from two houses to an inn in 1576 and the shop front was added in 1912.

Orchestral quality suffers under inflation

By Our Arts Reporter

Because of rising costs and the general uncertainty of the economic situation, some orchestras in Britain are having to adopt measures which are beginning to affect artistic standards.

Mr Kenneth Matchett, its general administrator, said: "Our attendances are up and our performance income is up, but the rate of inflation is greater than the rate of increase one can produce out of income. We are having to find £100,000 just to stand still."

Orchestral salaries were up 21.5 per cent, national insurance and pensions contributions 53 per cent, promotion costs, including hall hire, transport, printing and advertising, 31 per cent. Local authority support, promised at the start of the year, had fallen short by nearly £60,000.

Theatre companies could benefit from increased box office receipts which might have come to cultural bodies instead of the Customs and Excise.

They had been greatly handicapped by the burning down of

Orchestral Society controlling a symphony and a chamber orchestra is facing a desperate situation, with a shortfall of £100,000 on the trading year.

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They had been greatly handicapped by the burning down of

St Andrew's Hall in Glasgow and now played in the city hall, with a capacity of 1,200 seats.

"We could do with many places with larger halls than we can get in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen. We are limited to those cities. They have halls of a reasonable size and it is a pity to take a big orchestra of 90-odd players to a hall which seats only 650 or thereabouts."

They were a bit worried, he said, about the future. "But as we say up here, we just go on in faith, because we have absolutely no guarantee of assistance."

Mr May has the last word for them all, the Birmingham, the Bournemouth, the Hallé and the Royal Liverpool: "As soon as the election is over we shall continue our previous efforts to coordinate representations to government on behalf of all those bodies whose needs in the current year can be met only if the Arts Council receives a substantial increase in its grant in aid."

Scheme to take tin mining out to sea

By Pearce Wright

Science Correspondent

Designs are being tested for a new type of factory ship for extracting tin from the seabed off the coast of Cornwall. Plans for such a vessel include ideas developed at the Warren Spring laboratory of the Department of Industry under a research contract for an industrial trial organization.

The work forms part of a programme to devise methods for recovering minerals from the continental shelf to counter the decline of many mineral reserves on land.

A senior scientist at the laboratory said that although the seabed was an obvious new source of minerals, technology was not available to exploit it except in some shallow, sheltered waters.

Work is not confined to the British continental shelf. Recovery schemes for minerals such as tin, diamonds, iron,

calcium carbonate, barites and sulphur are being studied.

Longer-term projects are connected with mining of manganese nodules from the seabed and the possibility of mining and processing hard-rock minerals from its substrata, as opposed to scooping up sand and mud and separating out the valuable deposits.

Increasing commodity costs and shortages have encouraged the revival of Cornish tin mining. Moving from land to sea is a matter of changing the cost from opening and equipping a mine to building a dredger in which ore can be extracted from sand and mud.

The concentration of tin in seabed sediment is very low, probably a fraction of one per cent. Because it is more dense than sand, tin ore tends to accumulate nearer to bedrock by a combination of gravity and hydraulic processes. Upper layers of sediment can be cleared in much the same way

as the overburden is removed in opencast mining on land.

Removal of this layer is more difficult at sea than on land. Material has to be returned to the sea without creating a wide mud pool, disturbing marine life and reducing the amenity value.

A second difficulty is found in developing a technique to extract microscopic particles of the ore from sediment.

Offshore mineral recovery round the United Kingdom is concentrated on the dredging of sand and gravel. On one side of Britain, where sand is plentiful, dredgers keep the gravel and discard the sand; on the other the process is reversed. Designing large vessels to carry out that vacuum cleaner-type of mining safely is difficult.

Unfortunately the same recovery techniques cannot be used for tin because of the low concentration of ore. Instead of suction pumps, the material must be scooped up in buckets.

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OVERSEAS

US police chiefs want tougher measures for 'incurable' criminals

Washington, Oct 10.—The nation's big city police chiefs have told Mr William Saxbe, the Attorney-General, that some criminals cannot be rehabilitated and "should be permanently separated from the community at large".

The proposal to crack down on a so-called career criminals made the list of nine recommendations sent to Mr Saxbe as the result of a meeting of leading police officials in Chicago in August. Mr Saxbe asked the chiefs to meet him and recommend ways of dealing with the nation's sharply rising crime rate—now running more than 15 per cent above last year's figures.

While the proposal for tougher action against repeat offenders echoes similar language used in recent speeches by both Mr Saxbe and President Ford, some of the other recommendations—calling for new federal programmes—run counter to Mr Saxbe's resistance to increased federal effort to deal with local crime.

The chiefs, who met in closed session in Chicago, drew up a list of recommendations at that time. Then, late last month when they were in Washington for a meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, they narrowed their recommendations down to the line that reached Mr Saxbe's desk last week.

While the report has not been made public and he has not yet acted on the recommendations, the proposals from the chiefs cover these points:—

The Federal Government should take the lead in convincing those involved in criminal justice that protection of the public should be their first concern. Society and members of a criminal justice community, could recognize that some

offenders cannot be rehabilitated and should be permanently separated from society.

The Federal Government should finance an independent study of the whole criminal justice system to determine who is responsible for the problems caused by repeat offenders.

Every community should establish a criminal justice council in which representatives of the police, courts, prosecutors, places of correction and lawyers would meet regularly to talk about ways to improve their cooperation.

The juvenile criminal justice system should be modernized. But federal funds should be used first to help improve the existing system rather than to finance non-governmental programmes.

The states, rather than local communities, should keep the responsibility for training institutions for serious youthful offenders. Dangerous repeat offenders who threaten society should be kept in institutions until it is safe to release them.

The federal government should finance job programmes in high unemployment areas and in the age group from which youthful offenders come. One possibility would be the reinstitution of the old civilian conservation corps.

Family courts should be established to take the place of the present juvenile courts.

Welfare policies should be reformed so that they encourage family life rather than simply providing income.

The Federal Government should finance a study of how police investigations can be used most effectively to cut crime in high crime rate areas.

The Federal Government should finance a study of new investigative techniques, which are urgently needed.—Washington Star-News.

Saigon nuns lead anti-police protest

Saigon, Oct 10.—There were marches and scuffles in the Vietnamese capital today as Buddhist nuns led hundreds of demonstrators against police. Earlier, some 300 local journalists were followed by thousands of supporters as they marched in protest against restrictions on the press.

That march was barely over when hundreds of people, led by Buddhist nuns, confronted the police in a square near the central market place. Some of the crowd first chased individual policemen, then resisted efforts to disperse them.

The nuns led about 250 people through the streets to occupy the steps of the nearby National Assembly building. Uniformed police showed restraint, although they sometimes became involved in scuffles as they linked arms to force back demonstrators.

Mr Haney Howell, an American television reporter, was felled by a Karate-style attack as he stood in front of the National Assembly building to film a scuffle. The attack, apparently by a plain-clothes police officer, came after onlookers and demonstrators had been separated, and the only people near Mr Howell were journalists and policemen.

Meanwhile, the Government is considering a Cabinet reshuffle amid increasingly outspoken criticism from political, religious and press groups.

The corruption issue has been pressed by a movement which appears to be winning support among the Roman Catholic minority.—Reuter.

Paris.—The Provisional Revolutionary Government (Vietcong) today announced that it would not renew the negotiations deadlocked in Paris with South Vietnam until President Thieu and his Saigon regime were overthrown.

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Hostages joke after 12-day ordeal

Panama City, Oct 10.—Seven Panamanian guerrillas arrived in Panama after fruitlessly holding an American woman diplomat and six others hostage for 12 days in the Dominican Republic. Just before they flew out of Panama to Santo Domingo last night, the terrorists threatened to return and carry out more violent acts.

In Panama they told reporters that they had saved their lives for the sake of their revolution.

After talking to reporters, the terrorists were taken to a medical centre for examinations. It was not known what would eventually happen to them.

One, who shot himself accidentally during the siege in the Venezuelan Consulate in Santo Domingo, needed treatment for a wounded foot—

Santo Domingo, Oct 10.—Miss Barbara Hutchison, director of the United States Information Service in the Dominican Republic, was in good spirits and joking after the terrorists released her and six other hostages in return for safe conduct out of the country.

"Suddenly I became a tremendous bargain. I went from a million to nothing," she quipped to reporters last night.

The terrorists had originally demanded \$1m (£417,000) ransom and the release of 37 leftist prisoners. They got nothing except a safe conduct.

Miss Hutchison, who is 47, said that she and the other hostages had been treated well during the siege and even developed "something of a friendship" with their captors.

But there had been many tense moments. The most difficult was "the waiting and then the various crises as they occur. There was a package of dynamite, and we were living with that".

Captors and hostages alike often were short of water. The Government of the Dominican Republic intermittently allowed food and drink to be taken into the consulate building.

Despite her ordeal Miss Hutchison intends to continue her tour in the Dominican Republic that began in 1972 after a long career in other parts of Latin America.

"Mendez (Señor Radhames Mendez Vargas, leader of the terrorist team) beat me \$5 that I would have to leave the Dominican Republic because all

Keen Chinese interest in British poll results

London, Oct 10.—Chinese officials and news media have studiously avoided comment on the election campaign in Britain, though the authorities are clearly keen to receive an informed estimate of a likely result.

Officials have been questioning British guests at banquets and other occasions about the probable outcome without giving away their own thinking or preferences. However, the visit of China by Mr Heath last summer, and the treatment he was given, showed how highly the Chinese evaluate his foreign policy. It is logical to assume that they would like to see him returned to power.

The Conservative leader's policies on Europe and on relations with the Soviet Union and India are the main points which gained his favours in his record.

Seoul police quell students with tear gas

Seoul, Oct 10.—Some 1,000 students threw stones at riot police in a violent anti-government demonstration today, demanding the immediate release of all political prisoners and a new constitution.

Several hundred riot police fired tear gas to force the students back into the campus.

About 1,000 Catholic priests and laymen also staged a demonstration in Seoul yesterday, another sign of the dissent which has been expressed since President Park Chung Hee lifted two controversial security decrees in August.—AP.

World chess draw

Moscow, Oct 10.—Viktor Korchnoi and Anatoly Karpov today agreed to a draw in the adjourned tenth game of their world chess challenger match. Karpov still leads 2-0.—UPI.

Workmen fall 18 storeys to their death

Manila, Oct 10.—Eighteen workmen fell 18 storeys to their deaths today when a steel cable holding their scaffolding to a building under construction snapped. One man escaped injury by grabbing the cable. Mr Alejandro Galimban, head of the private security force at the construction site in the Manila suburb of Makati, said he believed a strong wind snapped the cable. But the police said they suspected that the scaffolding was overloaded and inclined an investigation.

Mr Felipe Tablate, aged 27, grabbed a cable after the scaffolding gave way and climbed to the twentieth floor of the 21-storey First National City Bank building, which will be the Philippines' tallest office building when completed. Mr Tablate suffered minor scratches.

Mr Galimban said: "A strong wind blew in this direction, and we heard the labourers shout as the scaffolding broke. We saw them plunge to the ground, falling on top of one another." Apart from the 18 killed, three

Disabled junk's crew rescued

Anchorage, Oct 10.—The seven crewmen of a disabled replica of an ancient Chinese junk were rescued by the United States cargo ship Washington Mall near the Aleutian Islands last night.

The junk Tai Ki left Hong Kong last June in an attempt to prove that Chinese sailors could have found America in pre-Columbus days.—Reuter.

Princes Charles and Anne salute

Suva, Fiji, Oct 10.—The Prince and Princess of Wales took the salute at a trooping of the colour ceremony at the Albert Park Showground, part of celebrations marking the centenary of Fiji's cession to Britain and its 50 years of independence.

Mr Gough Whitlam, the Australian Prime Minister, and his wife, who arrived in Suva last night on their return journey from North America, were among the guests.—Reuter.

HOME NEWS

More money for health seen as a national priority if the NHS is to survive

John Roper
Medical Reporter

The £170m pay rises for nurses and the announcement of the general election two days later have apparently persuaded the public and the politicians that the troubles of the National Health Service are over.

But the coming year will be no peaceful or easy one for the service. One of its troubles is that it is taken for granted. Little has been heard from the hustings about the health service, although about a million people, 80,000 employed within it and most with a vote, are concerned in its day-to-day existence.

In an election basically about money, it is surprising that, as one of the biggest spenders of public money, it comes so low on the list for public debate.

In the past few months £300m has been given or promised and next year's health care budget will well exceed £3,000m.

Leaders of the health-caring professions, no less alarmed about the underfinancing of the service than when they voted to tell the Prime Minister of the situation last July, are worried because no one has said where the extra millions will come from.

Last May the Government, in the face of mounting tension in the service and inflation troubles, reiterated that no extra money was in prospect.

But the crisis in the service was found to be real and in the following month the Government announced (to some derisory applause from the annual representative meeting of the British Medical Association) an extra £47m to tide the service along against inflation. It has since promised to continue that protection.

A short time ago some area health authorities and management teams were pointing out that their money would run out in the autumn, long before the end of the financial year. Authorities, lacking money to pay salary bills, could not afford to fill vacant posts.

In the following months another £54m was found for wage increases under Phase

Three, and last month £170m was given to the nurses.

Lord Halsbury, whose independent committee made this award to put right, as was said at the time, 30 years of neglect of this vital branch of the service, is looking at the pay of the eight professions supplementary to medicine, and at an interim claim by the medical and dental professions.

Radiologists, physiotherapists and others are unlikely to be satisfied without substantial increase, as their pay, traditionally linked so far with that of nurses, has also been neglected.

Ambulancemen are forming a detailed wage claim and in January NHS ancillary staff, porters, kitchen staff and so on—whose strikes disrupted many hospitals earlier this year, will make a 20 per cent claim.

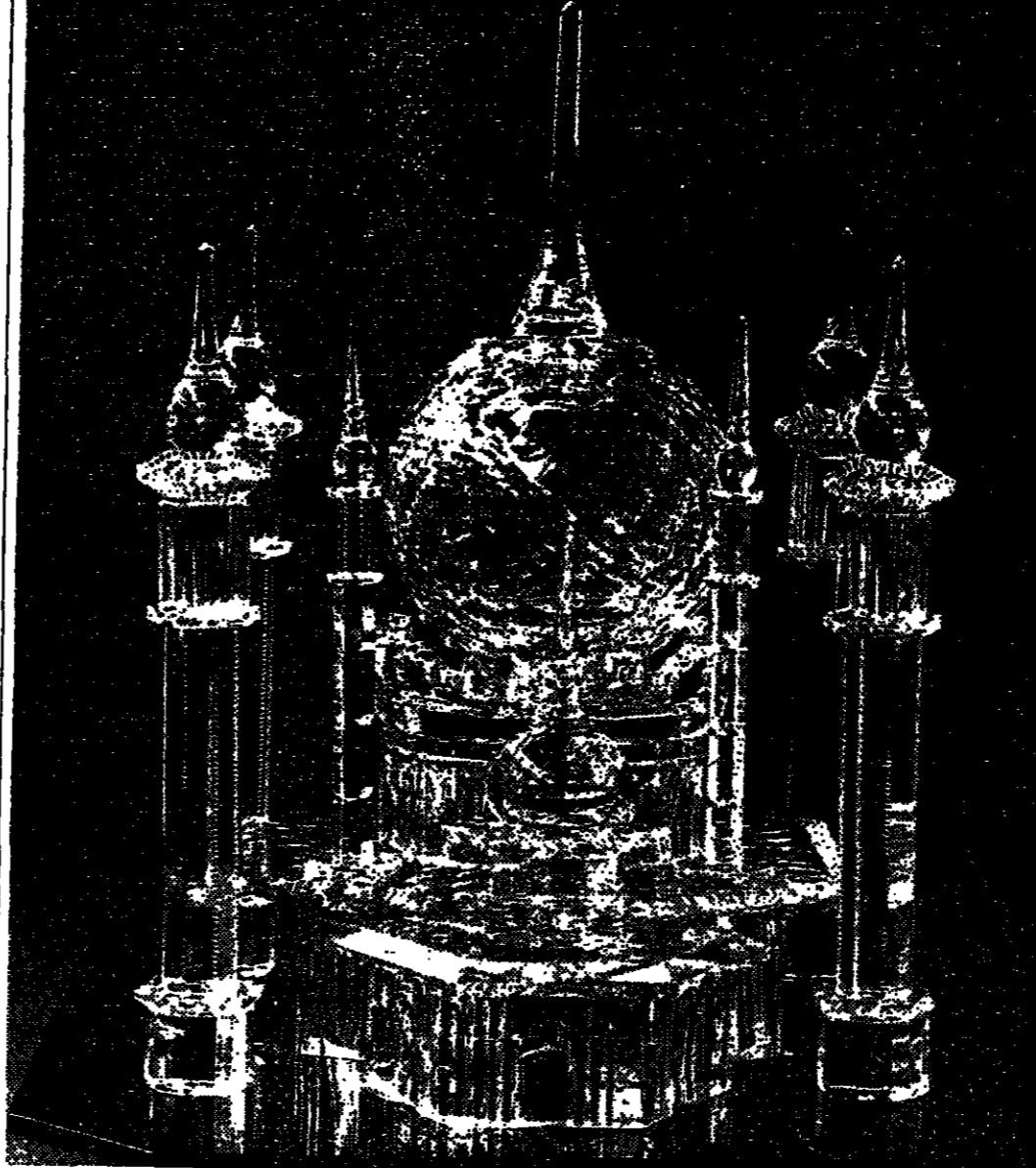
That would cost about £6m if met in full. Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, has said that never again must health service workers be allowed to fall behind and if Labour wins the election presumably the claim will be met almost, if not quite, in full.

The doctors' present claim is for an interim increase of 15 per cent. They would probably be satisfied with the 7 per cent increase which, but for Phase Three, they would have received in the last review body report, which would cost the service another £25m.

At present the profession's leaders are engaged in a bitter clash with Lord Halsbury, chairman of the pay review body, over the allegation that in an interview reported in a doctors' journal he indicated that he had decided that doctors could receive no more money until the next review in April, 1975. Lord Halsbury denies the charge but many in the profession have lost confidence in the independence of the review body and there will be calls for his resignation.

One of the most disillusioned groups among doctors comprises most of the 11,000 consultants in the health service. Their eyes are on the government committee which is studying their system of remuneration and arrangements for the private practice which the NHS Act allows them.

All three major political parties, as a matter of course, see the NHS as worthy and make it up to politicians and the people to decide on priorities.



Ten years of spare-time work by Mr Bernard Fitch went into this 18-inch-high mosque carved from lead crystal which is being displayed at the Exhibition of British Handmade Glass in London.

Imaginative scheme to extend a museum

By Staff Reporter

An imaginative scheme to extend a south London museum by siting most of it underground has been developed by architects of the Greater London Council.

The museum is the Horniman, which is on the edge of the Horniman Gardens, in Forest Hill. The gardens command extensive views of London and conventional development would have broken the skyline and intruded into a prominent part of the gardens.

When the work is completed, it is hoped by 1980, the parkland will be reinstated, new planting making good a limited loss of trees and full landscape treatment integrating new terraces and buildings into the surroundings.

A major development, in line with the original intention of

the founder, Frederick Horniman, who was a tea magnate and traveller, would be a survey of the natural history of London and the Thames Valley, incorporated in a gallery, described as "unique in the museum world", displaying aquaria and exhibits against a background of natural habitats and depicting the wildlife of the Thames Valley from source to estuary.

It would provide the only large-scale aquarium outside the Regent's Park Zoo, and would probably also accommodate the baby alligator recently missing for a short time and which, being fully grown by the time the work is completed, would have had to be sent to a zoo.

The plans and a scale model are on show at the museum, in London Road, Forest Hill, until October 16.

Concorde must be 65 pc full to make profit

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Concorde supersonic airliners will begin to make an operating profit on services across the North Atlantic when 65 per cent of the seats are sold, according to a French aircraft industry estimate.

It has been based on a cost to an airline of \$35,000, about £15,400 for the operation of a Paris to New York flight, and first-class fare of \$500.

Optimistic forecasts of this nature are worrying airlines in the United States which have placed no orders for the 1,350mph aircraft and fear losing much of their high-revenue first-class traffic to British Airways and Air France once they begin flying Concorde.

Editor and reporters lack only a paper

From a Staff Reporter
Glasgow

The *Scottish Daily News* has an editor, 79 journalists ready to write, a modest fleet of vans and much indestructible optimism, but no actual news paper. The venture by a group of workers from the 1,700 made redundant seven months ago, when the Beaverbrook organization closed its publishing operation in Albion Street, Glasgow, now survives one crash only, it seems, to face another.

The groups of economists who doubted the viability of the project. One from Strathclyde University did a feasibility study, the other from the Department of Industry investigated the worthiness of the project as an investment for government money.

But the workers have rejected any sharply pragmatic approach to their new paper. They point to the 500 jobs that would be salvaged and, most proudly, to their scheme for a workers' co-operative which, they still claim, could set an example for achieving smooth relationships between men and management in any industry if it could be given a chance to work.

That would mean Beaverbrook entering into the deal unsecured if the *Scottish Daily News* failed and likely to lose circulation for its *Scottish Daily Express*. Express did succeed.

There is still much public sympathy for the former Beaverbrook workers and hope that their plans will succeed. An appeal to raise about £20,000 has been launched. The editor designate, Mr Fred Sillitoe, aged 57, former deputy editor of the *Scottish Sunday Express*, worked 25 years for Beaverbrook before opting for redundancy last July.

Harlow expansion plan for another 28,000 people

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Proposals for a further limited expansion of Harlow New Town, Essex, are published by the development corporation today. They envisage a population of 110,000 by 1990, compared with about 82,000 now, and an extension of boundaries.

The corporation's proposals come after the decision last January of Mr Rippon, then Secretary of State for the Environment, not to press for the large-scale expansion of Harlow, Stevenage and Bracknell. It had been suggested that all three should consider increasing populations to about twice the present levels.

Although the latest proposals are more modest, they seem certain to create controversy and may well have wider implications. Inhabitants of new towns that have reached or surpassed their original population targets have strongly resisted further deliberate expansion.

financial support although their members would benefit most from the creation of more jobs.

Mr Benn's offer of government help was generous in view of his own department's calculations about the journal's chances of success. But his offer has proved to be heavily qualified.

Provisional agreement for purchase of the Beaverbrook building and plant has been reached between the company and the action committee, and the terms offend the letter of Mr Benn's offer to provide half the cash required.

Beaverbrook is insisting that if it releases the building to the workers for anything less than a full payment of the agreed price, it should have first claim on the property if the venture fails. Under the Government's proposal the building would go to preferred creditors.

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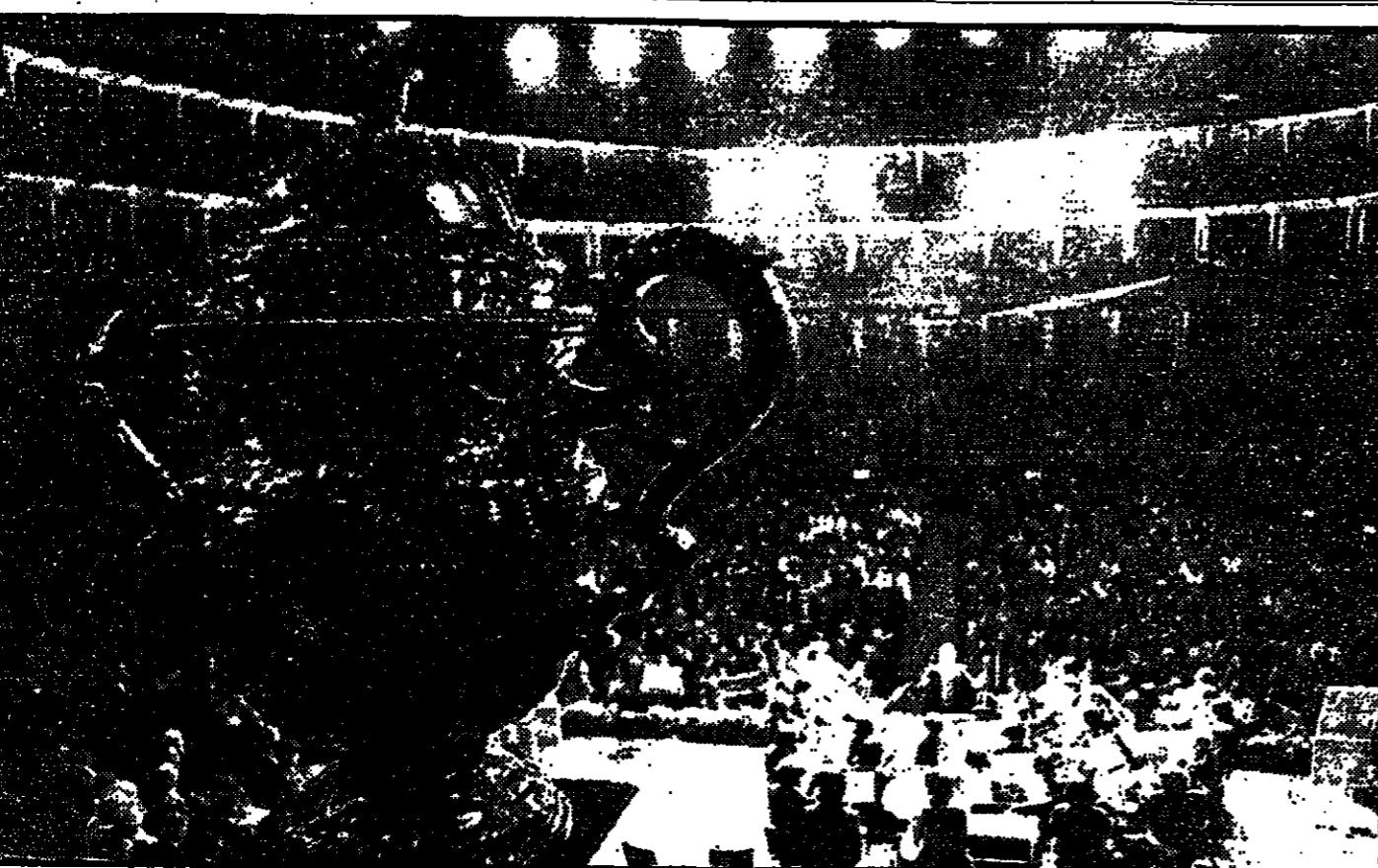
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Where there's brass there is much to be proud of

The National Brass Band Championship, which took place last week in the Royal Albert Hall, is more than a mere musical competition. Its essential nature lies somewhere between Cup Final and a religious festival. Nothing is more stirring than the sight of stout men, edging instruments to glow and keep with the most delicate of musical phrases, their garish brass and purple uniforms dazzling beneath the arc lights. Town men, old bandmen say, have been known to cry at the sight of it all.

No such lacrymose episodes are in evidence this year, but an audience of more than 6,000 for four-and-a-half hours stoned to the same nine-minute test piece—Malcolm Arnold's *Fantasy for Brass Band*, specially composed for the occasion—no fewer than 19 men and loving every blast of it. Large numbers arrived at 10 clock their shopping bags filled with sandwiches, flasks of tea and knitting while their husbands purchased copies of the music and followed it with one concentration, the audience rustling with the sound pages turned in unison. When

Brighouse and Rastrick, last year's champions, wobbled through a tricky passage, a loud gasp came up from the audience. According to the cognoscenti, the test piece was not unduly demanding and this inspired resentment within some of the better bands whose superior skills shone in proportion to the difficulty of a work. But a couple of top Ds in the scherzo and a lyrical elegy in the middle of the piece sorted out the men from the boys and gave the clearest indication of class. As a member of the St Austell band put it: "The artistry is in the elegy. It's very exposed. A lot of mistakes can be hidden, but not there."

Footballing metaphors abound among the bandmen. St Austell were not placed in the top six this year but have hopes for higher things in the future "because we're gradually getting a better forward line". A Grimsborough bandsman said before the championship that with such a test piece it should be an easy "away match" but recalled that Leeds had lost to Colchester in the cup a few weeks ago. The championship has qualifying rounds and the final is separated into four divi-

sions. Division One in the Albert Hall is dominated by a silver trophy, not unlike the FA Cup, on a shelf above the platform in front of the organ.

A roll-call of the bands is like an evocation of industrial history from Wingates Temperance and Black Dyke Mills to more modern conglomerates like the far from poetic William Davis Construction Group (Sibson) to National Smokeless Fuels (Fishburn) and the baffling Yorkley Onward.

Of all the manifestations of working class culture, nothing is more certain than a brass band to bring on an attack of the George Orwells. Even the most hardened bourgeois cannot resist romanticizing the proletariat a little when faced with one, and nowhere is this more likely to happen than at a band practice in the hut behind the Grimsborough and Ferrywood Miners Welfare Club in Yorkshire on a damp autumn night. With the soot settling on the pages of one's notebook, to pass through the door beneath a meadow sign proclaiming "The Famous Grimsborough Colliery Band" and hear them rehearsing Malcolm Arnold's *Fantasy* is a revelation. The tiny hut is fit to burst with the sound of the music and the accumulation of old scores and instruments around its walls. The band's secretary and his two assistants sit formally behind a desk at the front like trainers on the touchline of a football pitch. In their sloppy cardigans and casual trousers the bandmen are a far cry from the neat dinner-jacketed musicians (they are nicknamed "the undertakers") on the platform of the Albert Hall.

The twice-weekly practices are concentrated but joyful occasions with much wisecracking among the bandmen at each other's expense. Grimsborough were very keen to win the championship not so much for the money (the top band receives only £500 and a recording contract) as for the prestige. They won it in 1970 and a Saturday were runners-up to the Cory Band from South Wales.

Grimsborough enjoyed a great success earlier in the year, when with Black Dyke, they made the debut of brass bands at the Promenade Concerts. The bandmen relished this experience and the contrast of the noisy hilarity of the Promenaders with the silent intensity of the audience at last Saturday's performance. When asked what made a great band one put it down to Barnsley Ale. Another said it was the joy of escaping from "t'wife". Several talked about the Grimsborough tradition, which goes back to 1917. All 27 bandmen work at the colliery on the day shift from six in the morning to 11.15 pm, and along with their 2,000 workmates contribute 21p a week to a welfare fund, a small part of which goes to the band.

Should the culture and politics of Mr Arthur Scargill's militiamen South Yorkshire coalfield become the dominant strand in the body politic after the revolution, Mr Edgar Howarth's successor-but-three as conductor of the President's Music and Grimsborough would appear on all great state occasions. Musically, at any rate, the prospect is far from unattractive.

Peter Hennessy

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WEST EUROPE

Mr Ford's envoy seeks Europe's help in fighting inflation and finds France more amiable

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Oct 10

Mr William Eberle, President Ford's special adviser on economic affairs, this morning met M. Jean Pierre Sauvagnargues, Minister of Finance, and M. Jean Sauvagnargues, the Foreign Minister, before seeing heads of delegation at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

He emphasized that the United States had no intention of enforcing overall import controls, notably for food. What was nothing in particular of our partners, he added, he was in Europe to speed up the carrying out of specific policies and to encourage governments to cooperate closely in doing so.

President Ford's programme is not one of austerity. It is designed to control inflation and restore economic equilibrium," he added. He told M. Sauvagnargues that the American government was taking the same path as France in reducing the consumption of energy.

The Foreign Minister, who spoke before the Foreign Affairs Committee this morning, emphasized that the creation of hostile fronts of oil producers and consumers would be useless and dangerous.

It was urgent to make with the oil producing countries an overall survey of the energy situation. Europe had specific interests of its own and could not dispense with a common energy policy.

"Our standpoint can be boiled down to this formula: 'Cuts in consumption and long-term solidarity between producers and consumers'."

M. Sauvagnargues told the committee that relations with the United States had become more relaxed. Difficulties with the United States which had been a serious obstacle between European countries, had been overcome.

He had personally noted at the last ministerial meeting in Washington that consultation

between Europe and the United States worked smoothly. This had contributed to European cohesion.

Current discussions about the energy crisis should make it possible successfully to put forward the European standpoint in Washington.

"Relations between Europe and the United States must be good. But there are interests specific to France and to Europe, and one of the guidelines of French foreign policy is the solidarity of interest between France and Europe."

Economic trends threatened to lead to an "each for himself" mentality in Europe, because of economic and monetary disparities. This trend towards dissociation coincided with the energy crisis. It was therefore essential to maintain the cohesion of the Community.

Hence the refusal to renegotiate the terms of Britain's entry, and the efforts to emphasize the political will of Europe.

Free-for-all in world food condemned

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Oct 10

Dr A. H. Boerma, Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, said here tonight that the present situation should finally have made clear to all concerned that any purist concept of international free trade in

food was dangerously outdated. The poorer developing countries which were facing crop deficits and serious balance of payments difficulties could not be left to compete in a free-for-all scramble for basic food supplies where cash was preferred to credit.

The world food situation which had caused wide concern

in the past two years was again deteriorating and now grave. Immediate action should be taken and in the year ahead there should be an all-out drive to increase the production of food grains in all parts of the world.

Some 200 members of the crew demonstrated through the streets of Le Havre this afternoon.

SACRIFICE

This is a time of crisis for the world. The British people have always responded well during times of crisis.

Sacrifice

is not unknown, in our country. We who write this are qualified to raise one aspect: millions have, for many years past, made sacrifices by supporting Britain's numerous charities. These sacrifices established our hospitals and many of the services now taken for granted. It is today generally recognised that needy aged in their suffering should be the one of the categories to benefit from this heritage of concern.

The sacrifices, already being made by a large number of people for the work of Help the Aged, vary from the pensioner's 50p to help those poorer than himself, to those giving voluntary personal service up to a value of £1,000 each per annum. Hundreds of thousands of British men and women, young people in schools and colleges, churches in their thousands throughout the country, have been making sacrifices to help the elderly who have suffered disaster in the poorer countries, as well as the needy elderly in our own. Flood and famine victims in Bangladesh, Honduras and Ethiopia have been helped, and flats and other services have been provided for the needy aged in England, Scotland and Wales.

What now? Is Britain to expect that for a time the average standard of living for the U.K. may fall back to that of, say, a few years ago? Then, please, the old age pensioners should still be enabled to buy the same food, warmth and bare necessities as at the date their state pension was last fixed. If this means greater sacrifice by able-bodied people this is what we are appealing for. Let us remember that when most stop work at retirement age their pension is less than half their

previous earnings. Nor is it likely that many will see the better times which are coming after this crisis - particularly those who are old enough to have lived through what were in fact far worse periods, i.e. the last two world wars.

Whatever the government funds will be needed to maintain the value of the pension and to provide the loans, the subsidies, necessary for housing lonely and necessitous aged. Help the Aged enters into the matter because voluntary donations are essential to generate such housing work for the needy - £5 provides approximately £100 worth of housing thanks to official loans it releases.

We ask landowners, builders and architects, surveyors and trade unions. We appeal for sacrifice and need land at concessionary prices, please. We need builders who will sacrifice profit. We also need to ask others what they could do to speed production and keep costs down.

We ask all readers. First, we thank all who are already helping the aged and ask those who are not doing so if they will consider making a financial sacrifice. Are YOU willing to take a share in this great work? Could YOU give £150 to name a flat, or send £2 to India to restore the sight of an eye, or do YOU know someone who will give £5,000 to name a whole block of flats in almost any part of the U.K.? Or again, can you provide any of the kind of voluntary help set out below?

Please send donations urgently now to: Help the Aged, Room T3, 8 Denman Street, London W1A 2AP.

Ways in which you can help.

£25 WILL ADOPT A GRANNY for a lonely, destitute old person. Need someone who can afford to provide £25 a year for their care and welfare through Help the Aged.

£8 WILL REPAIR a stone church roof in Africa or Asia. A leaking roof means more than discomfort. It frequently brings worry to old people.

£150 NAMES A FLAT in memory of a loved one, or in your family name.

£2,500 WILL SEND a specially equipped Land Rover ambulance to any country.

£500 PROVIDES a well and a pump for a small poor village with no proper water supply. Engineers in Southern India only earn £11 per week.

£5 OVERSEAS can provide extra nourishing food for old people.

£25 WILL SEND VITAL supplements, food and medical aid to a small community for 2 months.

£10 PROVIDES £400 WORTH of building in Great Britain thanks to loans available.

£5 WILL PAY FOR 10 elderly people to receive a copy of 'Your newspaper for a year and visit' from our volunteer visitors who distribute it.

WE WANT HELP with voluntary services. Retired bank managers, solicitors, accountants and women. Can you give 1 or 2 days a week in our own district. Write Legacy Dept., Help the Aged, 8 Denman Street, London W1A 2AP.

£4 TO £600 COULD PAY for the cost of an appeal which can yield much benefit for the elderly.

Crew of the France to fight on from land

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Oct 10

Aft a stormy general meeting this morning on board the liner France, which returned to its usual dock at Le Havre yesterday evening, the crew occupying her voted to go ashore by a show of hands. Only a security force of 40 men remained on board.

Union leaders who recommended a continuation of the month-old struggle on shore faced a barrage of criticism from the floor. They were accused of having concealed the truth about the agreement reached with the company and the Merchant Navy administration.

Some voices were raised in favour of a continued occupation of the ship. But the secretary-general of the Seamen's Union urged the men "not to commit a very serious mistake which would lead to the disruption of the strike movement".

Captain Christian Petré, the master of the France, reported to the naval authorities of Le Havre on the events which had taken place since September 11, when he had dropped anchor off Le Havre under pressure from the crew. He refused to make any statement. But the director of the Office for Maritime Affairs said that the date set for laying up the liner was still October 25.

Some 200 members of the crew demonstrated through the streets of Le Havre this afternoon.

£1,500m plane deal to replace Nato fighter affected by politics and alleged corruption

M Dassault denies bribing Dutch MPs

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Oct 10

M. Marcel Dassault, the French aircraft manufacturer and designer of the Mirage jet fighter, has categorically denied that he had ever attempted to influence Dutch MPs to press their Government to purchase his Mirage F1-M53 combat aircraft.

He has threatened to institute legal action against anyone who directly or indirectly attempts to harm the reputation of his firm.

The Mirage is one of the strongest contenders, together with the American Northrop Cobra, in what has been described as "the arms deal of the century", now being negotiated by the Belgian, Danish, Norwegian and Dutch governments for the replacement of the obsolete American Starfighters, the deal which involves 350 to 400 aircraft, is worth an estimated £1,500m.

The allegations against M. Dassault's firm were made yester-

day by two Dutch liberal newspapers, *Het Vaderland*, of the Hague, and *Algemeen Dagblad* of Amsterdam. They alleged that 18 months ago representatives of the firm had offered bribes to two MPs to back the Mirage. The two parliamentarians have in the meantime confirmed in a letter to the president of the Dutch Lower House that such offers had been made to them. The Dutch Minister of Justice has ordered an official inquiry into the affair.

M. Dassault declared: "All this is false. I have paid no one. I have not been in touch with any Dutch personality, and I am convinced no one from my firm had made any such offers. Others may resort to such practices, but certainly not us."

He emphasized that the choice of an aircraft depended exclusively on technical and industrial criteria, and notably on the flight test reports submitted by pilots for each type of aircraft.

The country which wins that bid can expect the orders to be doubled or trebled in the next 20 years, putting in the shade Lockheed's Starfighter sales.

Lava pours again from Mount Etna

Catania, Oct 10.—Mount Etna erupted early this morning, spewing out large quantities of

thick lava from a fissure in its north-west flank.

The lava had moved over half a mile down the slope of the 10,000ft mountain, but was not endangering farms or people.

Vulcanologists have watched the volcano for the past few weeks as it had started showing signs of activity. Etna erupted last February for about 30 days, threatening two villages at its base.—UPI.

EEC asked to supply wheat for India

From Roger Berthoud

Brussels, Oct 10

In its biggest single food aid proposal to the EEC's Council of Ministers, the European Commission has formally suggested that the Community should send a million tons of wheat to the famine-threatened state of India.

Of this the Commission recommends that 300,000 tons should be an outright gift, half from Community stocks and half from the member states. The remaining 700,000 tons would have to be purchased by the Indians on the open market, the Community would pay for the cost of transport, amounting to perhaps £60m (£26m).

This sum would come from the \$130m earmarked last week for the United Nations fund for countries worst hit by the rise in oil prices.

The total value of the gift of 300,000 tons and transport of the entire million tons is estimated at \$100m to \$120m. The Indian spokesman in Brussels described the Commission's proposal as "a happy development".

Until earlier this year the Indian Government had refrained from asking the EEC for food aid. This year's combination of poor crops and an oil-fired balance of payments deficit led to a change of policy, and 30,000 tons of EEC grain were shipped to India this summer under the food aid programme.

David Cross writes from Brussels: Mr Pierre Lardion, the commissioner for agriculture, said in Utrecht that the expected world shortage of cereals would force the Community to limit its grain exports to the world's most need countries.

Leading article, page 15

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'A' LEVEL AND AFTER

A STUDY OF SIXTH-FORMERS AND THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

All over Britain sixth-formers are busy considering whether to apply to universities and polytechnics. Fewer are doing so, and more are deciding to work rather than be an unemployed B.A. in 1978.

To find the answer to this and many other questions, The Times Higher Education Supplement is monitoring the progress of 50 sixth-formers over the next year — charting their progress, their frustrations and their attitudes as they strive towards their chosen careers.

The findings will be published regularly in The Times Higher Education Supplement. The first article appears in this week's issue.

Also: Is the quality of students declining? An N.O.P. poll of academics.

What is an educated man now? by George Steiner.

THE TIMES Higher Education SUPPLEMENT

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TO PART-TIME secretaries. Correspondents, administrative or clerical helpers. Can you afford to give three days or more each week to the work of a local charity? Please phone Dorothy James, 01-734 3808.

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TO PUBLIC SPIRITED ladies or businessmen who can initiate a gift shop, (Donated items) in your town, or in London and Manchester. Also full time or part time management required. Please Clifford Webb, 01-734 2140.

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TO RETI

OVERSEAS

US military chief takes pride in war airlift to Israel and urges European facilities for future ones

From Fred Emery
Washington, Oct 10

The hope that any future American airlift to Israel could be resupplied at United States bases in Europe was expressed today by General George Brown, the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Holding his first news conference, the Air Force general expressed pride over the make-shift Tom Kippur airlift conducted by way of the Azores and American aircraft carriers. But he said he hoped arrangements could be made with the allies, who had such an airlift needed again.

The point was one of the major causes of dispute between the European allies and the United States a year ago, when the use of Nato bases in Europe was denied for the airlift. Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, has never quite recovered from what he felt were the "craven" attitudes of Mr

Heath and other European leaders in cold shouldering Israel in order he felt, to pander to the Arabs.

Had Portugal not agreed to the use of the Lajes bases on the Azores, he suggested, it constituted a violation of the first of the Salt agreements.

The general, in turn, disclosed that he had discussed the possibility of Mr Nixon, if he faced impeachment, giving an improper order to the military establishment without his or the Defence Secretary's knowledge. Dr James Schlesinger had already disclosed such preoccupation.

General Brown said he and Dr Schlesinger concluded—in about the third week of July—that it could not happen without their knowing about it. He emphasized this conversation on the issue had been "incidental".

But it also emphasized that senior civilian and military men in the defence establishment did not dismiss out of hand the nightmare many entertained.

Mr Denktash to discuss refugee issue in London

Nicosia, Oct 10.—Mr Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, said today he would soon visit London to discuss the Turkish refugee problem with the British Government.

He was speaking after a visit to Turkish Cypriot refugee camps set up on the British sovereign base at Akrotiri, near Limassol. More than 8,000 Turkish Cypriots have been living there in tents for the past two months.

Mr Denktash is understood to have discussed their living conditions when he lunched with Air Marshal Sir John Aiken, commander of British forces on the island.

Mr Denktash said he would visit London on his way to New York, where he will represent his community when the United Nations General Assembly discusses the Cypriot crisis. —Agence France Presse.

Jungle massacre of Brazilians

Brasilia, Oct 8.—An expedition of Brazilian ethnologists has been massacred by a tribe of Waimuri-Atraois Indians it was trying to pacify, it was learnt today at the headquarters of the Indian Foundation here.

The exact number of victims was not known, but two members of the expedition escaped and gave the alarm, the foundation said. The massacre occurred between Manaus and Caracatá, Reuter.

Japanese protest over visit by US carrier

Yokosuka, Oct 10.—About 900 pacifists and leftwingers demonstrated today when the United States aircraft carrier Midway returned to its Yokosuka base at the height of the row over allegations that nuclear weapons are being brought into Japanese ports.

Meanwhile opposition parties threatened to strengthen their campaigns against the United States military presence in Japan and against President Ford's visit on November 18.

The Japanese Socialist Party and the Communist Party demanded in separate statements that the carrier leave Yokosuka, south west of Tokyo, immediately.

In a United States Congressional testimony made public over the weekend, a retired rear-admiral alleged that the United States mutual security treaty with Japan had been violated by warships visiting Japanese ports with nuclear weapons on board, which is banned unless previously authorized by the Japanese government. —The Japanese Communist

Wreck of Spanish galleon discovered

San Diego, California, Oct 10.—The remains of a seventeenth century Spanish galleon have been found off the coast of one of the channel islands in southern California. Dr James Moriarty of the university of San Diego has disclosed. —AP.

Abnormal weather warms Russians

Moscow, Oct 10.—A mass of warm air from the Mediterranean is giving Moscow and central Russia its warmest October for 100 years. Temperatures rose during the past few days to a record 68°F to 72°F. —AP.



Police arresting a youth in Boston where attempts to achieve racial integration in the schools by busing have led to riots in both white and black areas.

Dancer incident endangers Mills career

From Fred Emery

Washington, Oct 10

Mr Wilbur Mills, the well-known Democrat, was expected later today to issue a statement concerning his alleged involvement in a drunken incident with a stripper dancer.

His congressional assistant, Mr Gene Goss, has rendered inoperative his earlier relay of Mr Mills's denial of being present, by stating that he would not challenge the park police statements.

The deputy police chief yesterday held a press conference to announce that Mr Mills had been driven home by the police early last Monday, with a face bloodstained from cuts, and apparently "intoxicated".

His speeding car had been stopped near the Jefferson Memorial and during police questioning a woman companion had leapt into the tidal

basin, an inlet of the Potomac river. She was rescued.

The story is on the front pages in Washington newspapers, and apparently is being given blanket coverage in those

in Little Rock, the Arkansas capital that is the centre of Mr Mills's congressional district.

The matter has strengthened the challenge to his bastion from a young Republican woman.

Other reports state that she is an Argentine working in Washington without permit. She and her husband live in the same luxury block of flats in Arlington, Virginia, as Mr Mills and his family.

There were reports of Mr Mills's presence at a restaurant night club with several women companions. This contrasts with Mr Mills's reputation for shunning the Washington social merry-go-round.

Mr Mills has not been at the Capitol since the incident.

Many more details have as they reported.

The police demurred and drove the woman to a mental hospital. The hospital released her shortly afterwards, disagreeing with the police that she was an "attempted suicide",

as they reported.

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Mrs Gandhi switches her Cabinet about

From Michael Hornby
Delhi, Oct 10

In an extensive and long-expected Cabinet reshuffle, Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, tonight moved Mr Swaran Singh, the veteran Foreign Minister, to the Defence Ministry and replaced him with Mr V. B. Chavan, hitherto Minister of Finance.

The only new member of the Cabinet is Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, hitherto president of the ruling Congress Party, who was given the communications portfolio. His place as party president was expected to be taken by Mr D. K. Baruah, formerly Minister for petroleum.

Mrs Gandhi made a number of other changes at the non-cabinet level of ministers of state and deputy ministers.

The new Cabinet is as follows:

Prime Minister: Mrs Indira Gandhi; Foreign Minister: Mr V. B. Chavan; Home Affairs: Mr Swaran Singh; Defence: Mr V. B. Chavan; Finance: Mr P. C. Deshpande; Agriculture and Irrigation: Mr Jagjivan Ram, hitherto in charge of industrial development and, since the election of Mr Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed to the presidency last August, also responsible for food and agriculture. Agriculture and irrigation have now been amalgamated in one ministry.

The powerful Ministry of Home Affairs was given to Mr Brahmananda Reddy, a former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Minister of Communications in the previous Cabinet.

Mr Reddy's predecessor, Mr Uma Shankar Dikshit, was made a minister without portfolio.

Sharma, hitherto president of the ruling Congress Party, was given the communications portfolio.

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STAVING OFF FAMINE

The EEC Commission in Brussels yesterday took two decisions. The first, following the Americans, was to limit its export of grain in face of an estimated world shortfall of fifty to sixty million tons of cereals this year. The second was in response to the needs of India where famine conditions are already present in some states and are likely to worsen during the next two months even if the autumn harvest is better than forecasts have suggested. The Commission recommends that 300,000 tons should go as a gift and a further 700,000 tons should be made available for purchase by the Indian Government.

The decisions to limit exports and to help India are both welcome in what is now acknowledged to be a critical situation. A bare outline of world supply and demand in cereals may easily be given. The surplus exporting countries are the United States, Canada and Australia. (Latin America had a surplus in the nineteen-sixties but internal demand has now outstripped the supply.) The countries that most need to call upon this surplus are India and Bangladesh. To name these two countries does not disregard the many others that have lately suffered famine conditions but in most other parts of the world consumption of meat and eggs is higher than in South Asia

where cereals provide almost all the diet. Moreover, the population of India and Bangladesh is threatened far outnumbers all other potential sufferers put together.

The present critical state of the world cereal surplus may also be simply illustrated. Whereas throughout most of the past decade the available stocks held by the surplus countries fluctuated between a total world consumption of sixty days to close on one hundred, this figure has since fallen so that in 1973 stocks averaged only thirty-seven days of world consumption and in the current year are estimated at no more than twenty-seven days. Hence President Ford's action in stopping a privately negotiated deal with the Soviet Union at a time when the Americans realized they must reassess the situation so that they could best meet their obligations on a global basis.

The guidelines under consideration in Washington reject an arbitrary rationing system. The Americans will consult their old customers whose needs will be given priority, but will question any excessive purchases that might be used other than for the needs of that purchaser or that would otherwise disturb world market prices. This means ascertaining why the customers need what they order: in the case of the Soviet deal this information was evidently not fully provided.

BUSING IS NOT FOR BOSTON

The neighbourhood school has a special place in American hopes and affections. Parents who may not have the benefit of much education themselves, whose lives may be circumscribed by low wages and poor social conditions, still see the local school as the one chance their children can have of enjoying a better life than they themselves have had. School is in that sense the gateway to the American dream.

It is not surprising, therefore, that busing touches a sensitive nerve. The present trouble in Boston has its local character, of course, but it shows that conflict over schooling is not confined to the southern United States. It can happen anywhere, when people feel their children's rights are in jeopardy: not so long ago it fired the anger of the Jewish community in Brooklyn (and American Jews as a whole are firmly liberal in their racial sympathies) against their black neighbours.

The trouble in Boston stems, as usual, from the gap between federal directives and state implementation. A federal judge found the city's schools to be racially segregated and ordered that they be desegregated by all available means, including transporting children from one area

to another. The Boston school committee, all-white and, no doubt, predominantly Roman Catholic, took the decision badly and tried to fight it. In Boston, as in other American cities, the white population has moved out to the suburbs. The proportion of black's within the central area has risen to 16-17 per cent. The imbalance has been accentuated by the fact that many parents in the centre send their children to Roman Catholic schools. In consequence, nearly 40 per cent of the children in Boston's public schools are blacks or Puerto Ricans—which helps to explain the judge's decision on desegregation.

Busing causes strong feelings. Few white parents can feel anything but anger and resentment if their child has to be whisked away from home in the morning and bused half way across town to another, alien school, where the standards are in all probability much lower; or, the other way round, if their local school is invaded by a crowd of children whose capacity for learning (through no fault of their own) is much less and who, anyway, live and play in a distant part of the city. This is not so much a racial problem, though it comes out that way, as a straightforward concern for the welfare of their own families.

LOST COUNTRY MANSIONS

Under a colonnade whose pillars seem about to tumble around the spectators' ears, the Victoria and Albert Museum's new exhibition "The Destruction of the Country House" displays hundreds of photographs of mansions lost for ever. It is a melancholy record of the frailty of bricks and mortar and the vanity of ostentation. More pediments, pilasters, cupolas and machicolations have fallen than it is easy to suppose there ever to have been. But the exhibition cites them less in an elegiac spirit than in one of warning: it asks how many of the ones that survive may not go the same way.

Limiting its record to large buildings "of beauty or importance", the museum estimates that 1,400 country houses have been demolished since 1920, at an average rate of one every two weeks, and that fewer than 2,000 such houses remain in England, Scotland and Wales today. The rate of destruction has fluctuated, and for all Dr Roy Strong's urgency, it is in fact almost as slow at present as it has ever been. It was in the 1950s, when

the whole way of life that the country house represents suffered profound changes, and many owners could not find the resources to restore the accumulated neglect of the war years that the greatest losses occurred.

Since then legal penalties have been instituted to prevent owners from demolishing or altering buildings of interest without permission, official aid has become available towards a proportion of the cost of repairs, and a more active and informed public opinion has made sure that nothing of worth is lost without a struggle. Some owners have been enterprise in converting their estates into profitable, if sometimes garish, centres of entertainment. But only a few country houses can hope to pay their way by such means. The years of relative prosperity that have interrupted the decline may in retrospect be seen only to have been respite. Even in recent years local councils have often been reluctant to use their powers to compel owners to keep their houses in repair because in

The money mirage

From Mr John Haycraft
Sir, Ironically, one of the few groups with financial interest in inflationary wage rises is Government. Of the miners' £100 million increase, at least £30 million goes back in direct taxation. So does approximately a third of the nurses' pay rise of £130 million. Because direct taxation has never been accurately adjusted to inflation, the citizen automatically pays a bigger proportion of his income as money sinks in value.

The electorate is then expected to vote for the party which pours out most "bribes" on food subsidies for everyone, lower mortgage rates even for the rich, and tax relief to industry. It is rather like having one's pocket picked and then being given Christmas presents paid for by part of the proceeds.

Until recently, income tax was a "left-wing" measure, designed to tax the rich. When, however, an individual earning £25 a week forgoes as much as £5.92 all told, it is more an instrument for chastising the poor. At least those in higher income brackets have a substantial sum left—usually enough to allow them to pay their tax accountants.

One of the greatest dangers of the

present system is the "money mirage" it produces. People apply for jobs at salaries they will never get and ask for pay rises, a third of which they will never get. Particularly at lower income levels, a feeling of being cheated results, particularly as it is the employer who actually deducts the tax.

It is not worth considering a system similar to that in France with higher indirect taxes and less direct taxation at lower income levels? In France, it certainly gives a greater incentive to exporters and allows a man to feel that much of what he earns is his own to be spent as he wishes.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HAYCRAFT,
Director General,
International House,
40 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1.
October 4.

Evidence of slavery

From Col. J. R. P. Montgomery
Sir, The United Nations have approved the appointment of a working group of experts to study reports of violations of the Supplementary Convention on Slavery (1956) and of the traffic in persons and to make recommendations. The convention,

as one American official put it, the aim of the guidelines to be promulgated will be to provide a check from the selling end as to whether or not the truth has been told by the buying side.

Such guidelines should be beneficial to deficit countries such as India and Bangladesh. The stories coming from some Indian states are already grim enough. Though she dismisses some of them Mrs Gandhi admits that things are "extremely difficult" and that India will have to import far more grain than the planners had foreseen a year ago. But as always it is self-help that matters as much if lives are to be saved. India has suffered from a cruel combination of flood and drought, as has Bangladesh. In neither country is there any remaining of last year's reserves. How short are they? Mrs Gandhi has been pleading for an end to hoarding by big farmers and traders who see prices rising all the time. Open market prices in India offer the smuggler in Bangladesh ample opportunity and much use has been and is being made of it. Even without this illegal traffic the Indian Government always faces difficulty with grain surplus states being unwilling to shift supplies to states most in need. The need for control is even more urgent in the deficit countries than it is in the exporting countries which provide the world with its surplus.

The next step is violence. It is, on one side, the relatively large population of "poor whites" which suffers when these methods are used to alleviate the disadvantages of the urban blacks; and on the other side, the black population itself feels once again that it is being used, and that nothing is being done to tackle the basic disadvantages of the ghetto. Busing looks like a cheap way of saving money instead of improving the schools in the black areas.

The mayor of Boston, Mr Kevin White, is a capable man but he does not have authority over the school system. In the event it has been impossible for the municipal authority to control the issue. State police are now protecting those children, not too many it seems, who are braving the hazards of going to school in new areas where the local people, whether black or white, are hostile to them. Each community has been retaliating in attacks upon the other and in general rioting. It seems evident, however important the principle involved, that busing in Boston will not work. What is needed is an approach more sensitive to local conditions, based on bringing up to standard all those schools which are for whatever reason not satisfactory to the parents concerned.

There is evidence from many who work in mass production that while a minority like the repetition a majority in many industries detect it. They do the jobs because they are "the best work they can find" for their families to live on, and under our present arrangements they cannot create better work. A heavy responsibility rests with those who can.

Yours sincerely,
ALASDAIR CLAYRE,
38 West Hill Court,
Millfield Lane, N6.

The last resort the owner may demand that the council takes the place off his hands. Death and capital gains tax already fall heavily on owners, quite apart from the possibility of a wealth tax to come.

The original social function and economic foundation of the country house have largely ceased to exist. The exhibition rightly lays stress on the beauty of the phenomenon as a whole—house, furnishings, park and community—and on how much is lost if only the shell of a building survives, converted to some institutional use, as council offices or a museum. But the Jamesian bloom of an original milieu is an even harder thing to maintain than the fabric, and for many country houses, survival in a different age must imply different functions—which need not always exclude there being homes as well. But not many would survive even on these terms without continuing official appreciation of their value, and policies in respect of taxation and subsidy designed to make it possible for them to do so.

to which 85 states are parties, binds them to take steps to eradicate chattel slavery, serfdom, debt bondage, pseudo-adoption and servile forms of marriage.

The working group now approved has neither the funds, the staff nor the authority to seek evidence for itself. It will rely on the resources of governments, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The author of the past two United Nations reports on slavery, Dr Mohamed Awdah, complained that his only sources of positive information were the NGOs, and it is hardly surprising that governments are unwilling to publicize infractions of the Slavery Convention taking place within their own borders. We must expect this to happen again with regard to the submission of evidence to the working group of experts which is due to meet in August 1975.

For this reason the Anti-Slavery Society would like to appeal for information and leads warranting investigation. Naturally sources will not be disclosed without their permission.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MONTGOMERY,
Secretary,
The Anti-Slavery Society,
60 Weymouth Street, W1.
October 8.

Alleviating job monotony

From Mr Alasdair Clayre
Sir, Sir Keith Joseph writes (October 1): "It has been the aim of technological effort since the early Stone Age to replace monotonous repetitive muscular work by activity demanding greater skills, mental and physical. The process is still continuing."

Whatever may be true of the early Stone Age, of the last two centuries this is at best only half the truth. "Technological effort" has no "aim" of its own; it is guided and financed by particular people, and the main aim of those who have directed it over the past two centuries has necessarily been given our society's criteria of economic profit—the production of more goods at lower cost. Where this has been attainable by jobs with more skill and variety, what Sir Keith says is correct; where it has not—over the main area of mass production since the late eighteenth century—jobs have been created which are intensely monotonous and repetitive. Both processes are still continuing.

Those who have directed "technological effort"—in East and West alike—have in general done the jobs they have created. Perhaps this is the main problem. Or perhaps the difficulty is that it does not pay individual firms to improve their most irreplaceable product—the lives of those who work for them—except up to a very limited point; since productivity and satisfaction in work show no clear correlation.

As the benefits of such improvements are so great, but individual firms do not stand to reap them, this looks like a classic case for government intervention. Trade unions at a local level should undoubtedly be the main channels for any action, but they cannot locally provide either the information or the economic context to effect such improvements alone. Responsibility rests with Parliament and the political parties.

If nothing is done, young people quite possibly will in time come to abstain from repetitive jobs and create "voluntary unemployment", as they did in Sweden; unless they are kept at a low level of education to work whatever machinery happens to be produced by technological change. Surely neither alternative is acceptable.

Sir Keith makes one perfectly fair point when he writes: "What may seem monotonous to an intellectual seems otherwise to someone else." Intellectuals can sometimes make mistakes by assuming that others feel exactly as they do. But they can make even greater mistakes by assuming that people placed in conditions they would regard as unbearable have no same feelings as themselves.

There is evidence from many who work in mass production that while a minority like the repetition a majority in many industries detect it. They do the jobs because they are "the best work they can find" for their families to live on, and under our present arrangements they cannot create better work. A heavy responsibility rests with those who can.

Yours sincerely,
ALASDAIR CLAYRE,
38 West Hill Court,
Millfield Lane, N6.

From Mr H. D. Rose

Sir, Electoral reform is now an issue of central concern if we are to maintain a healthy democracy in this country, as is reflected in your journal, in your news coverage, correspondence columns (as again today, Wednesday, October 9) and in leading articles.

Your leader today (October 9) draws attention again to this point. You favour, however, what you do not mention is that this would require double the number of MPs unless there were to be very large single-member constituencies, which would probably intensify the injustice and distortion of the present system (its "lottery" aspect). Further, if seats are to be filled from national lists, greater power is given to national party organizations for they have to draw up the party lists.

The Labour Party, therefore, would have to choose in what order, say, Messrs Jenkins, Foot, Benn and Prentice would appear, and the Conservatives would similarly have to rank Messrs Biffen, Stevans, Carr and Ridley (or their junior equivalents, who would not be directly elected), and the balance of the party repre-

sentatives, as well as the vast majority of the community. There is considerable anger and resentment that the council should have offered this site for whatever purpose, without any local consultation despite the fact that it is in a conservation area.

Lord Biffen's final sentence (October 2) seems to indicate a determination to impose the

memorial on a community who have no desire for it and who would have to live with it day by day. I am quite sure that the Poles who have contributed to the fund would not consider this a proper conclusion to a very dreadful chapter of their history.

Whatever the cause, no one wishes to have a 24-foot polished black granite obelisk (designed before the site was chosen) which would so totally dominate and disrupt one of the rare public open spaces in Chelsea. I cannot understand Mr Fitzgibbon's references to trees; the plans as far presented show that the memorial and its intended surroundings would occupy about one-third of the width of the gardens.

The siting of the memorial at St Luke's is opposed by the Chelsea Society, the Victorian Society, the Old Chelsea Preservation Society and by the two local residents' associations.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR STAREWICZ,
British Embassy,
47 Portland Place, W1.

From Mr Horace White

Sir, The newspaper *British Ally* was not a "special" article, October 2; it was edited and published (in Russian) first in Kuibishev and later in Moscow.

It appeared every Sunday and sold out instantly. Black market copies fetched 20 times the cover price. Circulation was limited to 50,000 copies: it could have sold millions so eager were the Russian people to learn about Britain.

Yours sincerely,
HORACE WHITE, Editor *British Ally*, 1942-46,
38 Leyborne Park,
Richmond, Surrey.

From Mr Alasdair Clayre

Sir, The working group now approved has neither the funds, the staff nor the authority to seek evidence for itself. It will rely on the resources of governments, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The author of the past two United Nations reports on slavery, Dr Mohamed Awdah, complained that his only sources of positive information were the NGOs, and it is hardly surprising that governments are unwilling to publicize infractions of the Slavery Convention taking place within their own borders. We must expect this to happen again with regard to the submission of evidence to the working group of experts which is due to meet in August 1975.

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60 Weymouth Street, W1.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Electoral reform and the Liberals

From Professor Lord Kahn

Sir, I write this letter a few days before the general election, but clearly you will not wish to publish it until the day after. It is addressed to the Liberal Party.

Many people sympathize with their desire for representation in the House of Commons which more adequately reflects their support in the country. But their tragic error is to propose two alternative kinds of electoral reform both of which are completely unacceptable.

The first is proportional representation, which involves the abandonment of the British concept of each MP closely linked to a reasonably small constituency. The second is the single transferable vote, which is most members of the electorate.

There is a third and very simple kind of electoral reform which the Liberals have apparently overlooked. It is the French system of having two general elections, one week after the other. At the second election there are only two candidates—those who obtained the most votes at the first election.

At the first election there would normally be no question of voters who are Liberal sympathizers voting for other candidates out of fear of wasting their votes or of abstaining because it did not seem worth the trouble to turn out as a gesture.

Their object would be to secure for the Liberal candidates at least the second place. A good Liberal turnout would be assured.

In many more constituencies the Liberal candidates would come out second if not at the head of the poll. After the second election there would be far more Liberal MPs.

It is possible that by the time that this letter is published, one or other of the two large parties will be calling for Liberal support to enable them to form an operative Government. I suggest that the introduction of the electoral reform which I advocate be made a condition for such support.

Otherwise, the Liberal Party should announce that at the next general election the main plank in their platform will be this reform; and that if they are enabled to form a Government they will introduce this reform and then secure the dissolution of Parliament. Even if they were not put back into power at the next ensuing general election, they would be extremely likely to be back in power in the near future.

Neither of the other large parties, coming into power, would dare to secure the repeal of the new Reform Act, because such repeal would result in widespread resentment against them for putting party interests in front of democratic principles.

I am not a member of the Liberal Party, but I believe in democracy. I am Sir, your obedient servant,
OSBERT LANCASTER,
Flat 2,
12 Eaton Square, SW1.

You imply, secondly, that the single transferable vote would involve "putting members of the same party into contest with each other". This seems to hide some misunderstanding of what STV would involve. Each party will nominate as many candidates as there are seats in the constituency, and the choice of electors will be by

Inflation: The new Government's biggest problem.

What happens to people when their money goes mad?

In the autumn of 1923, when money finally died in Germany, the sum of discounted Treasury bills amounted to 191.6 trillion paper Marks, which expressed entirely in figures came to 191,600,000,000,000,000 Marks. The money in circulation represented something of a technical triumph for the printing press; and indeed the problem of producing enough of it was one of the principal questions to exercise the government during the months before the last collapse.

In the meantime, broad sections of the population had met financial ruin: hunger and poverty had ravaged the country; and successful speculation, black marketing and profiteering at all levels had set town against country, management against labour, class against class, trade against trade, family against family. The political and social trauma which Germany endured then, consequent upon inflation, military defeat, revolution and hyperinflation, in that order, were to affect her immediate development, as that was to affect all history, profoundly.

The concentration of our minds this year on the prospect of even higher inflation has naturally raised again the spectre of 1923, the year of wheelbarrow inflation, when eggs cost 70,000,000,000 Marks apiece, and when the dollar, worth 4.1 Marks at the start of the Four Year War, could be exchanged for 4,200,000,000 Marks. Because of the fascination of preposterous figures, emphasis has generally been upon the apocalyptic stories of the phase—upon the price of coffee that doubled in price before the customer finished it and called for his bill; upon the woman who lived by cashing a single tiny gold link of a long necklace every day; or upon the American who starved for three days because he could find nobody able to change a five-dollar bill.

As the apotheosis of deficit financing, 1923 undoubtedly has lessons for us. It shows the folly of monetary laxity reduced to absurdity. But the parallels with today's international inflation rates—even those in South America—tend to be obscured by the size of the 1923 problem. It is pointed out, sometimes convincingly, that we know more about money now, and how to control it; that the factors determining the rate and scale of the Weimar inflation made it (along with the simultaneous hyperinflation in Austria and Hungary) unique; and that in one way and another it could not happen again. That its incidence was localized rather than international, however, and that its causes were different, does not make a study of its effects less instructive. Inflation must tend to engender the same fundamental social stress and distress, the same discontent and hatreds, and the same swings of prejudice and waves of fear in a free society, engendering changes of values

A 50 Mark note, worth about £1 sterling when issued in June 1919, would then have bought two dozen eggs (available at 7 pfennigs each in 1914). A 10,000,000,000 Mark note was worth £1 sterling when issued on October 1, 1923. Three weeks later it would have bought one-seventh of an egg. A milliard is a thousand million.

Photograph by Trevor Sutton



and outlook desirable only to its enemies.

Besides, it must not be forgotten that German inflation started on its rampage not in January 1923, when the French invaded the Ruhr, but with the outbreak of war in 1914.

In the course of the war alone, the Mark lost half its purchasing power—an annual average inflation of about 20 per cent, the same order as has persisted in Britain this year. By the middle of 1921 the Mark had fallen to one tenth of its prewar value, and the rate obtainable from foreign sources was a good deal worse. Between the declaration of a war which, because of the expected result of a short conflict, was never properly funded, and the currency's eventual collapse, there were only two brief periods when the Mark's depreciation was actually reversed: after the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Russia, and at the start of 1921 when the reparations debate appeared to be going favourably. Otherwise, and with spectacular velocity towards the end, the Mark's course was unreliably downwards for nine years. The first eight of these, notably in the peace-time years as the reparations question grew increasingly vexed, give a better indication of what happens to a

people and a government perplexed and then panicked by soaring prices and vanishing capital, than does a freak year in which physical survival became the only serious objective of so many.

Obviously there were many diverse forces after the war contributing to the undermining of morale, order, national cohesion and private security in the new republic. It is not argued that the economic whirlwind which inflation brought in its wake was the primary cause of every trouble. Yet inflation made everything worse, coloured every attitude, aggravated the conditions in which assassination, political riot or putsch would prosper, robbed moderation of its virtues, and made it as easy to capture the imagination of the mob as to manipulate the fears of the middle classes whom ruin stared, and then struck, in the face.

Our military defeat, it was the soldiers and their families whose incomes were first swallowed by the inflationary tide. At home, nevertheless, those on fixed incomes, as ever, suffered equally. After the war, as inflation gathered pace, it was at least possible for wages to pursue for a time, although at some distance, the cost of living. Strikes and riots generally stirred the government whenever necessary to print enough cash to meet the swelling weekly bill. Only a few observers, but barely one in 10 of Germany's leading bankers, noted the failure of the trade unions to demand, rather than more money, a stable purchasing power for what they already had.

While the bankers denied any connexion between the increase in money circulation and the

falling exchange rate (ascribing the latter to the adverse balance of trade), and while industrialists considered the falling value as giving an export advantage, the middle classes lost their faith along with their fortunes. Wage earners could rush weekly—later on, several times a day—from the pay counter to the nearest shop, there to spend as much money as they could carry before prices went up again. But anyone who had to wait for a payment for more than a month suffered immeasurably: the doctor, the tradesman, the lawyer, the tailor. In 1922 the average mortgage borrower had been relieved of 399,400hds of his debt, but for each one who could pay off his mortgage with a postage stamp there was a ruined creditor. And for all the misery the Reichsbank knew one remedy: to print more money.

A year later absurdity had come. Dr Havenstein, Director of the Reichsbank, announced to a council of state in August that the bank was then printing 20 billion Marks a day, the total in circulation being 63 billion. He declared his satisfaction, however, that by the following week it would be possible to print 46 billion marks a day. The figures, of

the enlisted men... The first to suffer must be those who did not share in the general increase in paper revenue, the soldiers who did not participate in the increase in wages, trading profits and war industries... they realized that their situation and that of their families would be hopeless after the war. Hence the dull, often dismal attitude of soldiers on furlough from the front during the latter years of the war."

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Taking lessons in the art of invention

At the Cognitive Research Trust in Cambridge, they have now finished counting the entries to their "Inventaway Competition", which was advertised in *The Times* in April; 504 inventions have been sent in as answers to the problems set by Edward de Bono, who, with the other judges, will announce next month the winners of the £5,000 prize money. The competition has been a high point in the inventors' year, and it is a rare example of financial reward—or any recognition at all—for British inventors. Inventing is not an easy business.

Now, coming up with ideas is a problem. Mr George Rhodes, secretary of the Society of Inventors, in Manchester, says: "My mind is active in the morning, I sit on a bus and may get three or four ideas. A friend of mine gets his by lying in the bath late at night and keeping it topped up. You get a spell when ideas flood into the mind. Sometimes it is something you see, something being done, and you think: 'What a daff way to do that' and get thinking."

His ideas include "an open-ended trouser-rack", "a roulette dartboard", "a warm toilet set cover, folding to carry in your handbag", a device that keeps a spoon handy for the tea caddy, and a new type of golf ball. Other members of the society have invented a golf ball picker up, saves bending, and devices for sorting

coins and tilting cars for repairs.

However, very few ideas get farther than the inventor. It is said that one in 500 reaches marketing stage. We find British employers very reluctant to change." And there is a penalty for individual development of an idea: "You are crippled financially."

So, apart from inventing in assets in Premium Bonds, the society does not hope to make its fortune. With its 80 members, "usually working class people", and insignia bearing the letters "IS" entwined, it claims to be quite a happy family. We are interested in developing ideas as a hobby". One of its chief achievements is its regular "Hall of Inven-

tions", which is the major talking point of the Manchester Home Improvements and Leisuretime Exhibition (November 12 to 23).

"We really are the major society", states the Institute of Patentees and Inventors. "The rest are just babbling", and it has nearly 2,000 members and a government grant to back up the point.

Its secretary, Mr Leonard Cotterell (who is also the Secretary of the International Federation of Inventor Associations), explains the low adoption rates for inventions. "A firm may be interested in accepting new developments, but you've no knowledge of conditions at that firm. Meanwhile, inventors are happily inventing away,

thinking that because their invention is ingenious it will be taken up."

One of his inventors has produced a development of the fish-eye lens that rivals the human eye: "There may be very good commercial reasons, but no one wants it. So many things are ahead of their time."

New accessories for cars are popular inventions, but here again success is infrequent. Inventors come up with bumpers that push pedestrians out of harm's way, not knowing that the Road Research Laboratory has that very idea under consideration. "They don't know how far the state of the 'art'—as they call it in the patent world—has got." The parallel with the artist may seem forced.

but the institute's magazine also uses it: "The inventor, like any creative artist, is seized by an idea, an inspirational flash."

"If they are creative thinkers, people can turn at any moment into inventors. People can be taught to think creatively. We ought to teach inventions in schools", Mr Cotterell says.

Teaching creative thinking in schools is the prime object of the Cognitive Research Trust. At first sight, it appears that the money for the competition demonstrates that Britain is at last thinking about rewards for inventors. However, as those who read the original advertisement may remember, the money comes from Sweden.

Jonathan Sale

I went to the Belgrave Square offices of the Institute of Directors yesterday confidently expecting to find rampant despondency about the predicted outcome of the election. The occasion was a luncheon party to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the institute's magazine, *The Director*.

It would, I thought, have something of the character of a wake. The expected Labour victory would surely be anathema to the majority of industry. Yet public life has survived here, because of its ability to adapt to unpromising circumstances and it was hard to find anyone who thought the result, whatever it was, would matter very much.

A man whose job was to advise on pension schemes said that the economic crisis was, if anything, helping his business. The tougher it was to find good investments, the more people needed advice.

The low prices in the stock market did not much worry those in charge of pension schemes, since they were not about to sell their shares. Indeed, given a minimal faith in the future, low prices were good, enabling them to pick up stocks cheaply. Pensions people would only start to worry when firms had insufficient liquidity to pay pension contributions, and this had not happened yet.

He had heard of some companies placing heavy bets on Labour, to protect themselves financially against an anticipated fall in share prices should Labour be returned.

A man who ran a hotel in

Surrey, catering mainly to conference business, was similarly untroubled. "The more problems companies have", he said, "the more they need to have conferences to sort them out. And when business is good they need conferences to decide how to lose the competition. We can't

Edward Heath voted as a resident of 10 Downing Street. He lived there, readers will recall, when the register was compiled.

Up north

Stuart Reid went to Glasgow to test the mood of the citizens as they face the election of the century, or at any rate, of the year. He reports:

Glasgow went to the polls as the city's refuse strike entered its twelfth day. Surprisingly, there were few bloodshot eyes or trembling hands in the booths. Wednesday night was peaceful, even in Sighthill Street where blood has been known to trickle in the gutters following altercations in bar rooms.

A policeman said: "You're lucky if you make two arrests in Sighthill on a Wednesday night because people have no money." The social security cheques are paid on Thursdays and most working Glaswegians are paid on Friday.

Like most of Scotland, Glas-

gow is strongly Scottish Nationalist. Even a curmudgeon like me, who has been an ardent Labour voter for 30 years, was not immune to the pull of the Nationalists. I was, however, not the only one to be swayed. Harold Wilson was made out, but he was more interested in sectarian politics. "What this country needs is another Cromwell", he said.

Meadowland

Yesterday was polling day in the Meadowland election, but because of the rugged nature of the territory the ballots will not be collected and counted until the weekend. Last-minute straw polls showed the rabbits in the lead, but they have been wrong before and nobody was making any confident predictions. To help see you through the suspense, I offer a further selection of readers' thoughts on Meadowland.

People are still worried about my assignment of roles. The treasurer of the Chelmsford Young Liberals tells me that his candidate, who is of course a hedgehog, is called Stuart Mole—and the moles are supposed to be the reporters. Sandra Brown of Oxford wonders why I have not reported the activities of the Cows' Lib movement, while Mrs M. Wighman of Leicester tells me that the industrialists, cast by her as weasels, have suffered an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Julian Miller of Finsbury Park says I have forgotten the floating voters—how about others? I am glad, though, to have it pointed out by Michael

Education: Case for a reprieve of the tripartite system

Education promises to continue to be a lively issue. The Labour Party is still preaching universal comprehensive education; and it is beginning to dawn on even the least socially conscious that the way we bring up children, both in the school and the home, and the kind of society we get are not unconnected. The debate centres on the merits or demerits of comprehensive education. Does this open more doors, as its proponents claim? Or is it so intimately bound up with doctrinaire egalitarianism, that it merely has a levelling-down effect, as its detractors assert?

The most pleasing feature of the Commons debate on education (July 3, 1974) was the concern for academic standards expressed by Mr Prentice, and his attempt—the first by any Labour minister—to produce evidence in support of the comprehensive system. The figures were patently inadequate for the barest necessities. In fact by the autumn of 1973 many food shops simply refused to accept government money at all, and closed down. A cinema seat cost a lump of coal.

However, 1923 was an exceptional year. In the preceding years movements began and changes were wrought by inflation's continuing scourge which must have uncomfortable echoes today. It is of significance for anyone looking for a common pattern in inflationary situations that many of the same phenomena were evident in Austria and Hungary, where the inflationary process after the war was roughly a year in advance of Germany.

These phenomena included the tendency towards political polarization, which is to say the growth of support for the extreme left and extreme right, resulting in the shrinking of moderate parties who were apt to be blamed for failure and weakness. Strikes and riots, provoked by poverty and hunger, were followed by demands for "leadership", and frustration at its absence. (Ludendorff was even apostrophized in 1921 as "the German whose picture, shining from the darkness of our present hour, gives us faith that the future will bring a saviour and avenger for our people".) As the communist menace grew on the left, private armies were formed on the right. Resentment against the Jews flourished. Separatism was a threat from Saxony and Thuringia as well as Bavaria, and in 1923, again, civil war was a strong probability.

These were the more physical manifestations of trouble. No less telling and disquieting were the steps taken by private individuals to protect what they had or to obtain what they had not, and by the state and national governments to prevent unrest. These will be recounted in another article.

Adam Ferguson

The writer has discussed this shorfall with several distinguished educationalists and without exception the first suggestion made as to the new factor which has upset the ministry's calculations is secondary reorganization. Although this is, of course, no more than the kind of evidence we are seeking than was Mr Prentice's.

The only serious attempt at a national assessment of comprehensive education (*A Critical Appraisal of Comprehensive Education*, 1972, by the National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales) deliberately avoided a direct comparative study. Instead, a small sample of 12 mature comprehensive schools was examined in detail. The result was that only in five out of 11 schools, for which the question was appropriate, were the proportions of pupils attaining a certificate with five or more O-level passes at or above the national average. As regards certificates with two or more A-level passes, only one of the 11 schools was at or above the national average. It is not strange that Mr Prentice kept silent on these figures, especially as they were produced in an investigation commissioned by his predecessor, Mr Anthony Crosland?

In the earlier NFER study, *Achievement in Mathematics*, a direct comparison between comprehensive schools and "tripartite schools" was suitably weighted. The authors' hypothesis that "there will be no difference in achievement between comprehensive schools and tripartite schools" was not supported. The drive towards universal comprehensive education is an ideological one, undertaken for the indoctrination of pupils into a preselected value system.

The determined, and of last desperate, efforts that are being made to eliminate all alternatives before evidence can be provided should destroy any reasonable doubt remaining on the motives of those responsible. That this should be occurring in an open society, and at the behest of a government claiming that it wants to involve ordinary people in decision-making at local level, is shameful. If it would be damaging to society if it were allowed to succeed.

Fred Naylor
The author is a member of the executive group of the National Council for Education Standards.

boy tells me he plans to read it out at call-over, which sounds a ceremony of excruciating embarrassment. An English teacher at a girls' school in Hampton says the episode has provided an entertaining feature of her lessons

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German Federal Bank facing court action by Hill Samuel

By Christopher Wilkins
Banking Correspondent

Hill Samuel, one of the leading City merchant banks, is about to commence legal proceedings against the West German Federal Bank over its handling of the Harstatt affair.

It is to lodge a claim in the German courts, alleging that the Federal bank's mismanagement of the events resulting in the closure of Harstatt in June are to blame for the heavy losses which it now faces. A similar suit has already been filed by Morgan Guaranty Trust in pursuit of its own \$3m claim.

At the same time, Hill Samuel is seriously questioning whether it will be able to accept the revised settlement proposals announced on Wednesday by H. G. Guenther Vogel, the independent Harstatt negotiator.

The new proposals are unchanged in offering foreign creditors repayment of 55 per cent of outstanding claims. In Hill Samuel's case this would amount to almost £5m out of claims of about £8m. But non-bank creditors, German banks and German local authorities stand to gain appreciably more than under the original proposals.

Since foreign banks, particularly those like Hill Samuel, faced with heavy losses on spot foreign exchange deals, have

argued that they should be accorded special treatment, the increased offer to domestic German creditors is clearly a source of frustration.

The banks believe their argument has been reinforced by the decision of the American Federal Reserve Board to take over the foreign exchange contracts of the failed Franklin National Bank.

A spokesman for Hill Samuel said yesterday: "We are by no means certain that we shall accept these proposals. There are several aspects of them which we dislike, including the proposal that bankruptcy proceedings in the United States should be withdrawn."

Hill Samuel and First National City Bank have jointly petitioned the New York federal district court to divide Harstatt bankrupt in order to free some of its DM400m (about £66m) assets in the United States.

The decision to revise the original settlement plan followed vigorous opposition from Cologne City Council, which is owed about £30m and an association formed to protect large creditors.

For the proposals to be approved, the agreement of all the banks and local authorities and 95 per cent of other creditors is required. Cologne is to decide today whether to support the new plan.

Cayman Islands bank 'has huge assets gap'

Cayman Islands, Oct. 10.—The shortage of assets at Sterling Bank and Trust Company, also known as International Bank, which went into liquidation on September 16, "could run into tens of millions of dollars", Mr Keith Norman, the government-appointed liquidator, said in Georgetown today.

Mr Norman declined to disclose the assets or liabilities of the failed bank or to name the creditors, though he said they comprised "a wide variety" and may include banks, some of whose loans may be unsecured.

"I am being deliberately evasive because I am bound by the banking laws of the Cayman Islands, which require secrecy", Mr Norman said.

He said he did not know the whereabouts of Mr Jean Douet, president of Sterling Bank, who he said was last seen in the Caymans on September 12, the bank entered voluntarily liquidation three days later.

One creditor was known to be a Bank of Virginia International, a unit of Bank of Virginia Company, which had a £1m (about £550,000) loan outstanding to a Sterling Bank subsidiary at the time of liquidation. Mr Donald Just, executive vice-president of Bank of Virginia International, said the

loan was collateralized by \$2.2m in residential mortgages, which had been seized by Bank of Virginia.

Also handling the liquidation is the Peat, Marwick, Mitchell office in the Caymans, where a spokesman was not available for comment.—AP-Dow Jones.

Alan McGregor, writer from Geneva: The Geneva Civil Court is expected to take about three weeks to give a decision on whether it will grant the request for a moratorium submitted yesterday by the International Credit Bank.

If a moratorium were allowed, the court would nominate a commissioner to report on the bank's situation. A procedure that would be complicated by the association of the ICB with the Hessische Landesbank, which on Monday announced that it was asking the Geneva bank to refund its £1.5m (about £850,000) loan outstanding to a Sterling Bank subsidiary at the time of liquidation. Mr Donald Just, executive vice-president of Bank of Virginia International, said the

bank is expected to remain closed pending a decision on the moratorium request.

EEC loans for deficit members

Brussels, Oct. 10.—The European Economic Commission had asked the Council of Ministers for authority to raise multi-million dollar commercial loans to member countries in a state of payments difficulties, spokesman said here.

Under commission proposals, completed loans would be used when the need arose in a Community's name. On receiving orders from the council, the commission would appoint agents to raise the money from private and public sources and lend it at easy rates to the member country in need.

Any member could ask the council for help, contingent on a unanimous council decision. In return, the deficit country would have to follow council guidelines to improve its economic health.—Reuters.

July record for aerospace industry exports

A monthly record for exports of £61.9m was set by the British aerospace industry in July, according to figures issued yesterday by the Society of British Aerospace Companies. The figure was £6m better than that for the previous highest month.

It now appears almost inevitable that 1974 will be a record year for aerospace exports. The July figure brought the total for the year to that date to £53m, which was £6.5m up on the first seven months of 1973—a year which set exports records.

Included in the July figure was £27.5m worth of aircraft and parts and £32m worth of engines and parts.

John Stephen of London Limited

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar with effect from 27th September, 1974.

All correspondence and documents for registration regarding the Share Register should in future be sent to:—

Lloyds Bank Limited,
Registrar's Department,
The Causeway,
Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing,
West Sussex, BN12 6DA.
Tel: Worthing 502541—(STD Code 0903)

D. A. L. Gear
Director & Secretary

BLMC men see gain in Australia shutdown

By Edward Townsend and
Herbert Mishael

Prospects for British Leyland car workers in the Midlands have been given a boost following the company's decision to close its Australian manufacturing operation and concentrate on the import of United Kingdom built prestige cars.

The company announced yesterday after a week of speculation, that it was to sell its 64-acre manufacturing site on the outskirts of Sydney—where it has been producing 30,000 cars a year—to the Australian government for a sum expected to be about \$225m (£17m).

About half of the company's 5,000 labour force in Sydney is to be made redundant and the remainder is to be absorbed into Leyland's existing car assembly operations.

This means the end of Australian manufacture of the Marina and the demise of the P76, the all Australian car which Leyland introduced 18 months ago to compete in the medium size car market, but which has not been a success.

In future the company will concentrate its Australian manufacturing efforts on its profitable lorry and bus business and continue to assemble Rover, Triumph, Jaguar and Mini cars from parts made in the United Kingdom.

The phasing out of the P76, to be accomplished "fairly quickly", will give Leyland scope to sell more of its specialist Rover, Triumph and Jaguar models in Australia given a relaxation by the Australian government of its stringent regulations governing the locally manufactured content of cars.

Rover, Triumph and Jaguar, based in Solihull and Coventry, are engaged in big expansion projects. A BLMC spokesman in Birmingham said that the Australian decision did not mean more work for the Midlands, although it indicated assured work for the future.

The Australian built Marinas have only a 10 per cent British content. The company said that faced with world-wide demand for the model this could be absorbed easily into existing production.

Leyland Australia, which has faced strong competition in the medium car market from General Motors Holden, Ford and Chrysler, and particularly from the Japanese car makers, has seen its market share fall to under 5 per cent in recent months. Its accumulated losses have run into more than £28m.

Under the terms of the deal with the Australian government, the company is to sell \$2.2m worth of unsold P76s and Marinas to the state. The government is to convert the Sydney factory site into a low cost housing estate.

If a moratorium were allowed, the court would nominate a commissioner to report on the bank's situation. A procedure that would be complicated by the association of the ICB with the Hessische Landesbank, which on Monday announced that it was asking the Geneva bank to refund its £1.5m (about £850,000) loan outstanding to a Sterling Bank subsidiary at the time of liquidation. Mr Donald Just, executive vice-president of Bank of Virginia International, said the

bank is expected to remain closed pending a decision on the moratorium request.

Trade union appeals for Leyland Australia to be nationalized were not practical, he said, as the government had no powers under the Commonwealth constitution.

Mr David Abel, managing director of Leyland Australia, said in Sydney yesterday that the company's future annual turnover was expected to be \$A100m, and he added that it would be profitable next year.

The bank is expected to remain closed pending a decision on the moratorium request.

Redundancy was being kept to a minimum and had the deal not been successful, Mr Enderby said that 6,000 workers might have lost their jobs.

Trade union appeals for Leyland Australia to be nationalized were not practical, he said, as the government had no powers under the Commonwealth constitution.

Mr David Abel, managing director of Leyland Australia, said in Sydney yesterday that the company's future annual turnover was expected to be \$A100m, and he added that it would be profitable next year.

It now appears almost inevitable that 1974 will be a record year for aerospace exports. The July figure brought the total for the year to that date to £53m, which was £6.5m up on the first seven months of 1973—a year which set exports records.

Included in the July figure was £27.5m worth of aircraft and parts and £32m worth of engines and parts.

Markets firm, but property shares dip

Polling day saw London stock markets holding firm, with equities attracting better turnover than for some time. While much of the business clearly reflected last minute moves to balance positions in the market, there were buyers about in many sections, and a batch of special features found ready support. The FT index closed 2.5 up at 195.4, and The Times index gained 1.03 to 75.52.

The one dull sector was the property pitch, where lower share prices reflected the expectation of a fresh Labour government.

Pressure on sterling: There was significant pressure on sterling yesterday, attributed by dealers to some uncertainties about the general election. Although the pound held its ground against the Continental currencies, it was much weaker against the dollar, the rate falling from \$2.3415 at Wednesday's close to \$2.3255 at yesterday's close.

Encouraging figures on inflation support uptrend on Wall Street

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Oct 10

Share prices on Wall Street today surged ahead for the second successive session, buoyed by encouraging economic pointers, especially signs of lower interest rates. The Dow Jones Industrial Average soared 17.21 to 648.23. Volume was at almost a two-year high, with 26.3 million shares changing hands on the day.

Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Fed, told the joint economic committee of Congress today that the money supply would continue to expand. Federal funds rates—a key indicator of interest rate levels in the money market—had been helped by the President's decision not to impose wage and price controls and to balance the proposed 5 per cent tax rises with increased industry tax investment credits.

The market is frankly sceptical about the impact of President Ford's programme, but has been helped by the President's decisions not to impose wage and price controls and to balance the proposed 5 per cent tax rises with increased industry tax investment credits.

Brokers on Wall Street are also quick to point out that much of the gain in the market is due to the liquefied natural gas stocks position Exxon had to close the plant.

Dr Burns urged the Congress to pass the tax proposals made by the President to relieve the Federal Reserve of the burden of fighting inflation on its own. But the Congress seems to be closed to the plant.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Bowmaker loss takes its toll at C T Bowring

The news from C. T. Bowring at the half-way stage is by no means as disastrous as a downturn of almost 60 per cent might suggest. It was already plain that continued strength from insurance broking would do nothing to hold back the landslide on the credit finance side under the dual pressure of depositor jitter and soaring interest rates.

Bowmaker's figures are, indeed, every bit as bad as feared, with a £2.3m profit turning into a loss of £1m. None of the familiar problems in the money market have been escaped; the volume of outstanding hire purchase business has been reduced; and margins on fixed rate loans have been squeezed out of existence by increasing dependence on funds of ever shorter maturity taken at current rates.

But the bad debt experience has been small, and for all the difficulty in generating new deposits, the recent downswing in rates and the running-off of the least profitable business has sufficed to put Bowmaker back into profit.

And elsewhere Bowring has seen broadly holding its own. Singer & Friedlander has again had to make substantial provisions, but thanks to better balance in the money book it is at least up on the second half of last year. Property has slipped back into the red, but its sale hammer could well recover in the second half.

In short, the worst seems to be past unless interest rates take off again. The shares at 4p are not yet anticipating any particular excitement, yielding 2.2 per cent assuming an unchanged dividend, but a second-half recovery seems assured and any further fall in rates would be good news.

Interim: 1974 (1973)
Capitalisation £26.2m
Sales £235m (£257m)
Pre-tax profits £3.19m (£7.73m)
Dividend gross 1p (1p)

Manchester Liners

interested parties

It looks as though the situation Manchester Liners is about to come to the boil, though whether that means that the company is about to change hands is still anybody's guess.

Yesterday, dealing in a narrow market pushed the ML price up 24p to 125p at the close.

At this point it appears that the controlling shareholder, Furness Ship, has taken its stake up on around 56 per cent to about 59 per cent. The other known buyer, Euro-Canadian Shipholders, having failed to persuade us to sell at around 85p, as since added some 2 per cent to its existing 8 per cent stake in ML. Moreover, having had earlier that it would buy ML at up to 85p until today, Euro-Canadian admitted yesterday to buying a small block at above that limit. These could have been the shares sold by northern brokers, Barclays and, at around 103p. But who is selling in the North? Not the directors, for they have indicated they intend holding onto 183,000 shares they collectively own.

Then, of course, there is the possibility of a third party—the name of Trafalgar House is mentioned—which might ink itself better able to persuade Furness to sell out—perhaps at around 135p, though the gulf could continue to be had on the basis of sets.

Finally, there is the possibility that Furness and Euro-Canadian are bidding against each other in the market without knowing what the result will be, although in that case The Stock Exchange might raise an eyebrow.

One thing is sure, however, and that is that Furness holds a whip hand. Moreover, it is record—admittedly in a changing situation—as saying



Mr Edgar Bowring, chairman of C. T. Bowring: under pressure of higher interest rates.

that it intends retaining its position in ML. For minority ML shareholders the position still looks precarious enough to warrant selling at least half their shares in the market.

Siemssen, Hunter Pressure from the majors

It was perhaps inevitable that Siemssen, Hunter's interim pre-tax profits should fall, albeit the 45 per cent setback was greater than expected. But as a wholesale importer of tobacco products, the group is not only exposed to current pressures on the retailer but also to particular additional problems of this type of business.

Operating largely at the top end of the cigar market, Siemssen imports about 40 per cent of the nation's consumption of quality Havana cigars. Thus the impact of the 30 per cent increase in tobacco duty hit hard in terms of higher financing costs. The ensuing squeeze on cash flow is exacerbated by a tax system which bears on "profits" computed on the basis of historic cost.

Orthodox accounting makes no allowance for sharp rises in the replacement cost of stock, with the result that tax is paid on stock appreciation. Yet the

and on that basis the profit picture is much as one might have expected. Earlier in the year, Empire estimated that it would need a 20 per cent sales increase to hold profits following the Government-enforced cuts in gross margins. So an 8 per cent drop pre-tax on a 17 per cent sales advance looks fair enough, the story being of gross margin cuts being limited to the point where net margins, down from 7.9 to 6.2 per cent, hit the 25 per cent safety net.

The main implication at this stage, then, seems to be that the new Kettleborough warehouse and computer facilities must have fully settled down, that agent confidence must have started to return and that the group must by now have fully arrested last year's slide in market share. That being so, Empire stands to benefit relatively well from a second-half pickup, at least when compared with the poor outcome in the second half of 1973. But whether that will do anything to help the shares at 50p, down by four-fifths from last year's peak, is another matter. Certainly a prospective p/e of, perhaps, 44 looks to be too great a discount to the sector, but there are better yields than 8.5 per cent around in the retail sector.

Interim: 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalisation £7.2m
Sales £21.1m (£24.6m)
Pre-tax profits £1.67m (£1.53m)
Dividend gross 1.96p (1.74p)

Norsk Hydro Rights issue in sight

Norsk Hydro was understandably quick to counter reports yesterday that the Frigg field production may be delayed by at least six months with its own estimate of around two months. Frigg, along with the Ekoifisk and Heimdal fields, is after all the major prop behind an NH share price of Nkr 417 where the historic p/e is 18x.

NH is sticking to its projections that the North Sea will make its major impact on earnings in 1976/77. Analysts' estimates are that earnings will treble at least by then and rise rapidly thereafter, with Frigg contributing the lion's share.

Meanwhile, it seems that funding the North Sea is not going to be a straight forward off-balance sheet financing exercise for NH. Total investments this year will rise to around Nkr 1,000m of which internal cash generation will meet not more than one third. Norsk Hydro's partners in the "Petroleum" consortium will stump up some of the North Sea finance but NH admits that a call on shareholders is likely when stock markets permit.

The forecast is that pre-tax profits should be not less than £400,000 (£637,000) which with the shares at 20p infers a prospective p/e ratio of around 4.4 and a yield of 13.2 per cent. The tobacco majors look more attractive.

Interim: 1974 (1973)
Capitalisation £0.83m
Sales £4.99m (£4.42m)
Pre-tax profits £0.10m (£0.19m)
Dividend gross 1.35p (1.05p)

Empire Stores Holding its Share

After a poor second-half last year it looked as if it might take Empire Stores some time to get over its various problems. But following a mere 7 per cent sales increase in the opening quarter—admittedly compared with a quarter that took the full brunt of the pre-VAT spending spree—Empire has picked up strongly in the second three months to produce a first-half sales gain of 17 per cent, which compares none too badly with

Freemans.

Business Diary: Bookmakers Poll • High-speed Swede

Bookmakers, no less than politicians, were being subjected to a law of diminishing returns yesterday, according to Business Diary's own after-lunch, off-election poll.

Of the four bookmakers probed, the biggest bet so far was one of £25,000 on a horse, but this was one. Liam Hill had taken shortly after the date of the election and been announced and at a time when the odds on Labour were 1-2.

Setting started at J. Coral, however, the talk of a bet of £10,000 on the Tories at 5-2, placed last Tuesday. "My party-right-or-wrong better who had dropped £1,000 on Edward Heath last week."

Setting started at J. Coral, one day after the last election, which time the latest odds moved from 8-15 to 14-8, 2-7, 11-8 to 11-4, Tories and from 150-1 to 66-1, Liberals.

At Mecca, where chairman managing director Eric Frey was contesting Dulwich, the Tories, there had been 600 put down at 8-13 for no real majority.

Mecca said that there had been special arrangements made with those with an interest in the firm's chances. Morley was a three-cornered fight with a local challenger and the four incumbent, the then Attorney-General, Sam Silkin, in his majority of over 5,000. The company would not file separate constituency figures, Mecca said, and in

Morley's case, nobody had asked for it.

None of the four companies expected to take as much as last time. Ladbrokes, who took £970,000 last year, had by mid-afternoon taken about £500,000. William Hill had taken about £350,000, roughly half last time's amount. J. Coral had taken about £400,000, compared with £600,000, whereas Mecca reported £320,000 as against £600,000.

"We didn't expect to take as much this time around," they said at Ladbrokes. "Before the last election punters had three-and-a-half years to place bets: this time it was 32 weeks."

But they were not having that at William Hill. Business was "a lot quieter" than in March, they said, but added: "There's only half an hour between each race and we still take in plenty of money."

Hill's money was on a bet on the cause of this cut-price election.

Family links

The Swedes seem to be making quite a habit of promoting young men to the most senior jobs in their top companies. Volvo's president Pehr Gyllenhammar was only 36 when he took over Sweden's largest industrial group.

Now 38-year-old Bo Berggren is to become executive vice-president of Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags AB, the biggest

producer of high speed steel in the world. And his president, Erik Sundblad, is only 44.

Berggren is a close friend of Gyllenhammar and we asked if there were any family connections with the Wallenbergs, the great banking and industry family which controls Stora. He took the point immediately: Gyllenhammar is married to the eldest daughter of the former president of Volvo.

"In fact my marriage might be looked upon in some quarters as a hindrance to promotion in Stora," Berggren said. "You see I married the daughter of the man who was at that time president of Sandvik, one of Stora's biggest competitors."

Berggren has just been visiting his company's British subsidiary at Lye, Worcestershire. He told Business Diary that he is very concerned about how little known Stora is in Britain.

From January 1 he will be the effective number two at Stora and the man in charge of future planning and investment. One of his most urgent tasks will be to boost Stora's image here.

Proving ground

Merrydown Wine yesterday put out a statement announcing the appointment of Richard Purdy as marketing director.

In it, chairman and managing director Ian Howie is reported as saying: "If Richard had not been my stepson, he would, I believe, have been invited to

join the board some two years ago. As it was, he probably had to prove his ability rather than might otherwise have been the case."

The odddest letter to reach Business Diary this week comes from a conference organizer who writes: "We are inviting you to attend as a member of the press. The only stipulation is that you write about the conference before it takes place and send me a press clipping. Kindly confirm your acceptance early."

Steel scrap

Yesterday's meeting of the British Scrap Federation was everything an outsider might expect a pow-wow of scrap merchants to be—rough, tough but without a certain grim humour.

Most dealers arrived at the Hilton Hotel, inflamed by reports that fellow members were on to a good thing with the biggest of customers, the British Steel Corporation. And departed even more upset, feeling not only persuaded that such was the case but that the parties allegedly involved were not letting anybody else in on it.

This spiritual agony, no doubt exquisite in itself, was compounded by the physical discomfort of the surroundings, for many more turned up than could be seated.

It was standing room only as the rank-and-file valiantly sought

to persuade the executive to make more time for the thrashing out of reports that the BSC was paying a higher price for scrap from three companies, Thos Ward, Cooper Metals and the George Cohen 600 Group.

Equally vainly, federation president Mac Bissett tried to cool tempers with a description of current moves by the management committee. After all, who wants to pay his fare down to London just to hear that the matter is being looked into?

Nor did Alf Cooper, of Cooper Metals, succeed much better when he came to speak. Cooper Metals, like Ward's and the 600 Group, is represented on the federation committee which negotiates scrap prices with the BSC.

"I have been asked to state what the BSC's policy is," Cooper said. "I do not know. I have had no conversations with any other firm and no conversations with anyone. The BSC have said that there is no fixed price list and this is a fact."

Federation director Roy Boast said that at no time during the committee's negotiations with the corporation had a special deal been discussed, but the federation could, only assume such an agreement existed.

Norsk Hydro's accounts refer to the "Cooked" value of the company's fixed assets. Better than Cooked, perhaps, but not quite as good as Booked, wouldn't you say?

Shortcomings of inflation accounting as an answer to the cash crisis

John Plender
assesses the
options on
easing
industry's
tax burden

does have the cardinal merit of relative simplicity—it does not provide an ideal profits base for the tax system.

The snag is that the cost of industry's stock-in-trade has been rising far more rapidly than prices in general. Industry would therefore continue to pay tax on stock appreciation, which is precisely what the industrialists are anxious to avoid.

For this reason replacement cost or current cost accounting has been canvassed as a better accounting basis for the tax system. Under this method a company adjusts the figures in the profit and loss account and balance sheet to reflect specific price changes, regardless of actual cost incurred.

It is a fundamentally different concept of profit which makes allowances for the cost of maintaining the business. If used as a tax base it would ensure that companies are not paying out cash to the Inland Revenue which should be used to meet a rising working capital requirement.

The obstacles to the acceptance of replacement cost accounting are formidable. Its definition of profit is not obliged to pay the bulk of corporation tax until long after the taxable profits have been earned, so the liability in real terms is reduced. But the system is still inequitable between different sectors of industry and commerce, and is hardest hit by inflation.

The accounting profession has already come up with its own solution in the form of current purchasing power accounting. A heavy stock position or a net surplus of monetary assets are at a disadvantage under inflation compared with companies in the opposite position. But the disadvantage is not apparent under orthodox accounting.

There is also a danger that any longer term recommendations it makes will be seen out of their true perspective. It is important, then, to be clear about what he can and cannot do.

The cash shortage in industry arises primarily from the imposition of harsh price restraint. The ensuing squeeze on cash flow is exacerbated by a tax system which bears on "profits" computed on the basis of historic cost.

The results are highly misleading. Broadly speaking, companies with a high depreciation charge, a heavy stock position or a net surplus of monetary assets are at a disadvantage under inflation compared with companies in the opposite position. But the disadvantage is not apparent under orthodox accounting.

This leads to the absurdity whereby a company that is making losses in real terms can still find itself paying tax on paper profits.

The effects on industry can, however, be exaggerated. For a start, industry now enjoys 100 per cent depreciation on new investment in plant and

Problems of a sector geared to an extended time-scale

Technology versus politics in telecommunications

Changes are confronting the traditional relationships between the Post Office, its telecommunications suppliers and the Government. Conflicts exist between the time scales of technology and of politics; and between standardization of operations and innovative competition in industry.

These two conflicts were discussed last night in a wide-ranging lecture on engineering innovation prepared for delivery to the Institution of Electrical Engineers by Mr James Merriman, Post Office board member and president of the institution.

The Post Office's capital programmes were now running at about £700m a year, Mr Merriman pointed out. It had become

industry was subjected to continual change and the products of industry failed to succeed in world markets.

Mr Merriman's "optimization" means a fine balancing of many factors in the programme, including time. Arbitrary cuts in expenditure or changes of pace could mean that a "reduced" programme in fact costs much more in the end, and results in a disproportionate lowering of final performance.

"What is at issue here," Mr Merriman said, "—and telecommunications is but one example—is the fundamental conflict between the life cycle of parliamentary activity and that of long-lead-time, high technology enterprises of crucial importance to the infrastructure of society.

Parliamentary life cycles are measured in five years, often much less. These infrastructure enterprises can take a decade or more to develop and another decade or more to implement.

"Yet during that time there can be not only delay in decision-taking processes, but complete reversals of attitude."

Timely and enduring decisions on complex projects were crucial to the future prosperity of society, and should be taken rapidly rather than on narrowly conceived arguments.

Yet records of the early formative years of electricity supply and telecommunications, Mr Merriman said, showed a procession of select committees, of committees of inquiry, of decisions deferred and of decisions

gathered with the need to secure service cost effectiveness on a whole life basis—measured over three decades or more—conspire to prescribe readily definable minimum levels of acceptable standardization.

As a service industry, the Post Office was dependent on other sources and other industries for its main hardware. The service industry was critically dependent on the supplying industry, and vice versa, yet their respective objectives did not always coincide, Mr Merriman continued.

The supplying industry depended on the operating administration for clear-cut specifications and for reports on the behaviour of systems in use.

In Britain as in some other countries there were competing sources of supply for telecommunications systems equipment. This was defended on economic and commercial grounds on the argument that it provided opportunity for entrepreneurial innovation and cost effectiveness through competition.

"Yet in an operation as complex as telecommunications," Mr Merriman said, "the concept of free competition and controlled variety carries unacceptable heavy economic penalties for the operating administration."

"The disciplines imposed by interpolation, the continual growth and change of a telecommunications system, to implement requirements for active components are likely to rise from

Delays pose threat to Ekofisk costs

Development of the Ekofisk oilfield in the North Sea may be delayed by between six months and a year because of technical difficulties. This will undoubtedly affect the development costs for the field.

The huge surge in costs for offshore development was further underlined yesterday with indications that the latest British Petroleum estimate for the Forties field development has been revised upwards to £620m.

The probable delays to the Ekofisk programme were outlined yesterday by Dr Johan E. Holte, president of Norsk Hydro, the Norwegian petrochemicals and industrial group, which is scheduled to take a million tons of oil from the field when it enters full production.

This latest setback to planned

development rates follows reports yesterday that production of gas from the Anglo-Norwegian Frigg gas field—in which Norsk Hydro also has a major interest—could be delayed by up to a year.

The likely delay to the Frigg field project pose serious difficulties for the British Gas Corporation, which has contracted to buy substantial quantities of gas from the field in order to expand its supplies to the British market.

It will also influence Norsk's plan to set up a large ammonia production complex on the Scottish east coast, based on gas from the Frigg field, in association with other Scandinavian interests and an ICI.

On the Ekofisk field, where production was scheduled to rise to about 350,000 barrels a day by the end of next year,

output is at present running at only about 50,000 barrels a day. The oil line from the field to Teesside was expected to go on stream in spring next year.

But at a London press conference yesterday Dr Holte said there had been difficulties with compressors used for pumping gas back underground until such time as it can be exploited.

Although they had been installed, they had not worked efficiently and it was not known how long it would take for the problems to be resolved.

In another development, it is understood that BP is informing banks who agreed to finance £260m of development costs for the Forties field that the company now estimates the cost has risen to around £620m.

Meanwhile, the company, in which the Norwegian government has a controlling interest, is also reviewing its plans for the construction of a large vinyl chloride monomer plant.

Decisions are expected before the end of this year but a major influence on the company's planning is the controversy caused by the introduction of strict measures in the United States on VCM production because of several cases of cancer reported among workers in these plants.

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Discussions start on TV contract extensions

By Patricia Tisdall

Discussions are starting between the Independent Broadcasting Authority and individual television companies about the extension of commercial broadcasting contracts to 1979. The extension is subject to an initial appraisal just completed by the authority into the companies' financial approach, programming, operational procedures and management.

The authority said it had not ruled out advertising particular contracts for competition. However, it added that "an extension of only three years from 1976 is likely to make such a possibility unrealistic".

Results of the preliminary review have now been communicated to most of the companies. Their reactions are invited and also their suggestions as to how they will deal with matters which the IBA considers need remedying.

Mr George Cooper, managing director of Thames Television, said yesterday that he had just received his company's notification from the authority and that it was too early for him to comment. However, an executive from one of the smaller contractors described some of the authority's requests as "astonishing".

Later this year, the authority has said, it would send staff to visit particular companies to discuss certain points.

Meanwhile, the Annan Committee set up in July to consider the future of broadcasting is preparing to receive representations from interested organizations. One of the first to be submitted will probably be from the IBA which expects to have its recommendations ready by the end of this month.

The Independent Television Companies Association has also started work on recommendations for the committee and various listener and consumer organizations are also expected to be represented.

The committee, whose brief covers the whole scope of broadcasting, is expected to take about two and a half years to complete its report. A similar period is thought to be needed for consultation on the committee's recommendations and for any legislation.

It is for this reason the Government decided to extend to 1979 the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act, which would otherwise expire in July, 1976. The BBC charter has been extended for a similar period.

EEC seeks oil pricing data

Brussels, Oct 10.—The European Economic Commission is to ask the international oil companies for detailed information about their pricing policies in a new attempt to elucidate their activities.

Representatives of the companies will be invited to meet Commission energy officials in Brussels within the next month or so. They will be asked for facts and figures on the retail prices of their products, on refining and transport costs and crude oil prices. The information will be available for the mid-November meeting of the EEC's high-level energy committee.

Lucas group investing more than £30m to double output of diesel equipment

By Clifford Webb

The Joseph Lucas group is investing more than £30m to double production of its diesel injection equipment in expectation of a worldwide swing from petrol to diesel engines.

Mr Bernard Scott, chairman, told a press conference in London yesterday that the move towards diesel power was already under way. With its 30 per cent lower fuel consumption the diesel was the future engine of a fuel-conscious world.

He said the vast potential for Lucas could best be illustrated by the position in the United States. If that country used diesels to the same extent as Britain, it would save the equivalent of 60 per cent of the United Kingdom's present oil consumption. That one market alone could provide enormous business for Lucas.

"The acceleration in world demand for diesel fuel injection systems represents one of the most significant opportunities to emerge from the aftermath of the oil crisis", he said.

"Operators everywhere—and

governments—are fast getting the message that, job for job, a diesel engine can use up to 30 per cent less fuel than a petrol engine.

"Consequently a diesel engine explosion may be ahead of us and the problem facing us today is where to invest to optimum advantage such resources in fuel injection systems as we can muster."

"As the world's largest manufacturer of diesel injection equipment we are ideally placed to cash in on this."

Later, Mr Scott told Business News that the bulk of the expansion would take place in the United Kingdom with Britain the fastest-growing of all motor markets—a close second. There would also be investment in Spain, another major growth market.

Lucas's biggest competitor in diesel injection is Bosch, the German concern. But Lucas claims that its rotary injector is cheaper to produce and takes up less space than the more expensive in-line injector which accounts for more than 80 per cent of Bosch's output. Between

them the two companies account for nearly three-quarters of the world's production.

Mr Scott also hinted at a major breakthrough by Lucas in the production of electric vehicles. He declined to give details of the type of power source to be employed but said a public announcement was "fast approaching".

"We are not engaged on the development of a single vehicle application but we have a most comprehensive programme embracing a variety of different uses."

"We are through the development stage with some of them, and within a month or so we shall be moving on to trials with transport corporations and fleet operations. Then you will see Lucas-developed electric vehicles about the streets of Italy," he said.

He emphasized, however, that Lucas was not in the business of building vehicles. "As systems manufacturers we are developing and proving for the demand that we believe will be there before too many months have passed."

Ravenscraig and Tinsley Park, while there had also been "operational difficulties" on a blast furnace at Corby.

The low level of production worries many domestic market customers who have been angered by the BSC's decision to seek more business from overseas markets in the light of what it sees as indications of a downturn in demand from key sectors of the American market.

Steel consumers of a wide range of steel products have emphasized that demand continues to be strong, and in an attempt to obtain adequate supplies have made applications to the Department of Trade for temporary exemption of import duties.

In the latest development on this front the department announced last night that a duty free tariff quota will be open until the end of this year on imports of 50,000 tonnes of iron and steel coils for rerolling. This is traditionally lower than at other times because of annual holidays.

In the latest development on this front the department announced last night that a duty free tariff quota will be open until the end of this year on imports of 50,000 tonnes of iron and steel coils for rerolling. This is an extension of arrangements which have been in operation throughout most of this year.

Projecting continued growth throughout this decade, Frost & Sullivan sees total market sales moving upwards by 2 per cent in 1974, 3 per cent in 1975, 5 per cent in 1976, 7 per cent in 1977 and finally 10 per cent by 1980.

It points out that the oil crisis could have imposed critical effects were it not for the fact that existing obsolete equipment had to be replaced. Nevertheless, it forecasts that the 1.25 million outlets contained in 11 major marketing regions will generate \$700m in annual sales by 1983.

The user market includes hotels, hostels, restaurants and snack bars, plus an additional 314,000 institutional and industrial food dispensers in a variety of countries.

Of all countries studied the United Kingdom has the most highly developed food industry, the study reports. This has arisen as a result of the closed-knit transport system operating on delivery of bulk imports of cheap foreign raw material to concentrated mass markets.

"The series of mergers in the 1960s has given the conglomerates the experience of cohesion and the techniques of large-scale operation at the right time," it adds.

As a result the SMMT is now forecasting total United Kingdom car sales for this year of just over 1.2 million, an improvement on its gloomy prediction of under 1 million made at the start of the year but still down on last year's record of 1.66 million.

Stocks of imported cars are at a fairly high level but the British car makers are still able to satisfy demand, according to the SMMT which, yesterday, repeated its claim that as long as British cars are available, motorists prefer them to foreign makes.

The share of the market held by imported cars in September was down from 30.52 per cent in the same month last year to 28.32 per cent. In the first nine months its share fell from 27.06 to 26.52 per cent.

The Japanese Datsun Cherry was the leading imported car. The SMMT said that the only cars to have sold more this year than in the same period of 1973 were the Ford Escort, Chrysler, Cirrus, Amti, Sigma, 1000, Renault R4, Jaguar-Daimler XJ, saloons, Rover 3500, V8, Triumph Stag and Ford Capri.

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Basic materials such as cement, sand, and gravel were being cut back by about 10 per cent, while in certain sectors, such as brickmaking, the reduction in output was as much as 25 per cent. Production of certain specialist items, such as concrete pipes and clay pipes, was being reduced by as much as half.

"In some cases, permanent loss of capacity may result", he stressed. "Some plans for modernization have been postponed and marginal plants are at risk."

Orders for construction, allowing for time lags, were at disappointing levels. The position could be far worse by the end of the year, he said.

According to union sources, one Scottish plasterboard fac-

Steel output 17pc down on previous September level

By Business News Staff

British steel production is still well down on the levels of a year ago. The latest output figures published by the British Steel Corporation and the British Independent Steel Producers Association show that production last month was 17.6 per cent below the level for September 1973.

Weekly average output of the industry was 446,300 tonnes in September, and some consolation was that this was 9.5 per cent higher than in August, although output during August is traditionally lower than at other times because of annual holidays.

Over the first nine months of this year the industry's output has averaged 423,700 tonnes a week, which represents a fall of 16.4 per cent on the corresponding period of last year.

In their joint statement the BSC and BISPA stated that production during September had been affected by labour disputes at the BSC plants at Llanwern,

just over 1.2 million, an improvement on its gloomy prediction of under 1 million made at the start of the year but still down on last year's record of 1.66 million.

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According to union sources, one Scottish plasterboard fac-

Italy has deficit of £9m in August

Rome, Oct 10.—Italy posted a payments deficit of 14,000m lire (over £2m) in August, compared with surpluses of 264,400m lire in July and of 77,000m lire (net of compensatory loans) in August 1973, the central bank announced.

The bank said the figures were provisional. It also pointed out that no compensatory loans had been made in August. These loans have been made in the past two years and now total more than £12,000m (£5,220m).

There was no breakdown issued on the August deficit of trade and capital movements. It is nevertheless unusual for Italy to post a deficit during the summer months, because tourism usually more than offsets trade deficits.

In August 1973, the overall surplus had been 527,000m lire, but this included income of 450,000m lire in loans, yielding a net figure of 77,000m lire.

For the January-August period, the deficit was 2,650,000m lire compared with one of 378,000m a year earlier. Both figures are net of compensatory loans.

Official results show up: Italy's net official reserves were a provisional 3,100,000m lire at the end of August, up from 3,050,000m in July, but down from 3,250,000m a year earlier, Banca d'Italia announced.

"We are through the development stage with some of them, and within a month or so we shall be moving on to trials with transport corporations and fleet operations. Then you will see Lucas-developed electric vehicles about the streets of Italy," he said.

He emphasized, however, that Lucas was not in the business of building vehicles. "As systems manufacturers we are developing and proving for the demand that we believe will be there before too many months have passed."

Cost of living up: The West German cost of living index rose 0.3 per cent in September over August to 128.1 (base year 1970), and was 7.3 per cent up on September, 1973, the Federal Statistics Office reported in Wiesbaden. This compares with a revised 0.2 per cent rise in August over July and a rise of 7 per cent on the year.—Reuters

area to create suitable living conditions and job opportunities as they are, as an Arab proverb says, "like the camels in the desert transporting water, which they cannot drink when thirsty".

The blame for the rise in prices in this country is put on oil; but what, I wonder, caused and is still causing the price rise of gold, copper, steel, plastic, sugar and other world commodities between 1960-1971?

And was oil also to be blamed for the 1967 £1 devaluation?

To start with, two ideas have been floating about. Firstly, to recycle the surplus capital created by oil from the Arab countries in the western countries. Secondly, the annual income per capita in the Gulf states is £27,000 or almost 10 times that in this country.

The terms surplus and recycle cannot be accepted as the oil is a wasting asset, which means it will diminish as fast as it is used, probably in 20-30 years, leaving the whole Arab areas burning deserts.

So the Arabs must put the capital into developing alternatives in the areas before tragically the oil comes to an end. The developed world will probably use other energy sources but what can we use for money?

Again, re-cycle in layman's terms means to subsidize the bankrupted economy of this and other western countries, which have been and still are using oil very wastefully.

As for the £27,000 annual income per capita for the population of the oil rich Gulf states, it does not mean much, since the majority are barefooted peasants, shepherds and fishermen. Unless the pounds are properly invested in the

industry, the era of cheap wool next year.

The increase on this year's clip was 1p on a guaranteed 25p lb on estimated output of 78 million lb. But farmers claim that they already faced higher costs equivalent to an extra 3p lb for wool even when the extra 1p was awarded.

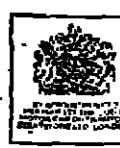
Their claim for recovery of the outstanding 2p as well as cost increases since the 1p is supported by the British Wool Marketing Board.

Food price index up by 0.4 pc

The food price index compiled for The Grocer by Hoare & Co, Govett, shows a rise of 0.4 per cent on the week, and of more than 16 per cent on the year. The increase for the week was slightly higher on processed food than fresh, mainly because of higher prices of sugar.

A total of 528 increases on wholesale prices of food will appear in The Grocer tomorrow. They will include canned goods, salad cream, cereals, tea and slicing meats. There will also be six reductions.

Fifty per cent of freight moved by road is carried by manufacturers' own transport. Therefore, unless a manufacturer has a factory or raw material supplies to generate a return load of compatible goods, the vehicle must return empty.



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Stock Exchange Prices

Equities firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Sept 30. Dealings End, today. 5 Contango Day, Oct 14. Settlement Day, Oct 22.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Share High Low Start	Price High Low Company	Int. Green Chg. Pence	Div Yield % P/E	Div Yield % P/E	Int. Green Chg. Pence	Div Yield % P/E												
BRITISH FUNDS																		
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL																		
A - B																		
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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

J Mowlem earnings squeezed in first half but output now reviving

By David Mott

The stock market had expected interim profits from Mr John Mowlem, civil engineering and construction group to turn out between £800,000 and £850,000 pre-tax. The fact that it just failed to reach the lower level of this target (the figure is £13,000 off at £792,000) is because of a £27,000 loss from associates, mainly Barclay-Mowlem. The shares finished 2p easier at 32p.

Mr E. C. Beck, chairman, explains that turnover, which extended from £23m to £25.5m, suffered in the early part of the year, but in the last week and concomitant shortages of materials. The indications are that the second half should provide better production, and the level of orders for future work is high, at home and overseas.

Taking off tax and crediting minorities the "net" fell to £290,000, against £430,000, and earnings a share to 4.18p (3.6p adjusted). The group does not pay mid-year dividends.

In his review of 1973, when profits reached a record £22m, Mr Beck did not expect a contribution from Barclay-Mowlem because of the disruption and expense caused by the Queen's floods. Although the outcome was worse than expected, current trading prospects in Australia are encouraging.

The chairman had found difficulty in making a forecast because of the economic conditions, but struck a hopeful note by saying a large proportion of the group's orders were of a kind unlikely to be cancelled.

On the housing side it was found that contracts were not adequately protected under termination clauses, but house construction would continue, though on a sounder basis.

Margin pressure, soaring costs jolt A Goldberg 42pc

The mandatory reductions in gross margins and ever increasing costs in all sectors of expenditure means that most companies have got to run to stand still.

One such is A. Goldberg & Sons, the Glasgow-based departmental stores, where following last year's peak outturn in both profits and turnover the group records a 42 per cent fall in first half profits and the board is looking to increased trading over the Christmas period to be the group's saviour.

In the first half to August 19 taxable profits fell from £916,000 to £535,000 on turnover that was not greatly changed at £6.89m against £6.88m. Nonetheless the interim dividend is being raised

Dutch takeover of Phaidon Press mooted

Dutch group NV Uitgeversmij Elsevier said in Amsterdam that it and Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc of Chicago are holding talks which may result in Elsevier taking over Britannica's group member, Phaidon Press, of London.

At the same time the Dutch publishing firm said it acquired undisclosed interests in Selecciones Editoriales SA and Distribuciones Títrion SA of Spain for cash. It did not elaborate.—Reuter.

Peugeot sales up, but turnover down

Despite increased turnover by 8 per cent during the first nine months, production of Peugeot automobiles declined 4.6 per cent to 533,000 units, reports AP-Dow Jones from Paris.

Sales in France declined 11.3 per cent to 254,000 units, while exports rose 6 per cent to 280,000 cars. M. Francis Rouge, general manager, said Peugeot's overall sales were higher than output and that its stocks, involving mainly new models, were at a normal level.

Peugeot sales up, but turnover down

Because of the poor response to its offer of £1 in cash for the 64.7 per cent of the equity of J. & J. Cash, Jones, Stroud (Holdings) are extending the closing date by one week to October 17. Before the bid is acquired 35.3 per cent of the cash equity and has since received acceptances of 9.097 shares or 1.6 per cent. No shares have since been acquired other than pursuant to the offer.

Rebound at L. Gardner

Things have picked up at L. Gardner & Sons diesel engines group which saw its taxable profits fall by £1m to £439,000 last year after labour disputes, lack of raw materials and short-time working.

After six months' trading the group has rebounded from £49,000 to £333,000, and the dividend goes up from 1.78p to 2.98p.

However, the first half included most of the three-day week and interim profits are still roughly half the levels usually attained before last year's setback.

Dobson Pk purchase

At a cost of £310,000 cash, Dobson Park Industries is to acquire 95 per cent of the Powerlite Group of New South Wales. The remaining 5 per cent will be retained by Mr A. B. Bonney, the resident Australian managing director of Powerlite, which made a profit of £182,000 in the year to June 30.

Mr F. K. Crawford is appointed managing director of Canadian Merchant and Port Line, responsible for conventional cargo services; Mr J. G. Grattan becomes managing director responsible for Cunard-Brocklebank's tanker, bulk carrier and cargo ship operations; and Mr J. B. Bolland, a managing director and general manager responsible for Cunard-Brocklebank's eastern services.

Mr Richard J. Todd, previously managing director of Cunard-Warren, has been made deputy chairman. Mr Ernest M. Scher is appointed assistant managing director.

Mr John Rogers has become a director of Cunard-Warren. Mr G. B. Huddins has joined the board of Crystal Electronics.

Mr Richard Purdy has been appointed marketing director of Hilton, chairman, says he has good reason to expect the mid-year profit relapse will not be repeated in the rest of the year. He is giving up his managing

shares.

Mr J. R. Purdy has become managing director of Sharp & Fisher and of Sharpe & Fisher Builders Merchants.

Bank Base Rates

Interest rates were very active yesterday, business being generated by the continuing reaction to President Ford's economic package and uncertainty about the British general election result.

The dollar gained ground against all other currencies, but advanced more against the Continental currencies than against sterling. The pound, nevertheless, closed at £2.325, down 160 points on the day.

Gold closed at \$1381, up \$2 on the day.

Recent Issues

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with salary (under review) in the Principal Officers' Range 1(b) (£3,765-£4,239 per annum, inclusive of London Weighting). In addition, a Threshold Allowance of £146.16 per annum is payable. Commencing salary according to qualifications and experience. Casual User Car Allowance.

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Housing accommodation or 100 per cent housing loan provided in an approved case and separation allowance and 75 per cent of removal expenses can be paid.

Application forms obtainable on written application to the undersigned, quoting reference 86 and must be returned by 28th October, 1974.

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R. H. WILLIAMS,
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Please write to Box 2632 D, The Times.

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We are now seeking a Chief Accountant, who will be based in our Head Office, to head an Accounting Function of approximately 200 staff, and be responsible to an Executive Director for the total accountancy work within the Executive. He will be a highly qualified accountant with at least five years in a senior management position in a major engineering or service industry. He will be expected to administer the accounts with minimum guidance and innovate in the fields of planning, costing, management information, and financial advice, requiring modern approaches to budgeting and control methods.

This attractive appointment is of Chief Officer status and attracts appropriate fringe benefits.

Application forms from the Training and Development Officer, Pitmeadow, Moor Green Lane, Birmingham B13 8NP, returnable by 28th October, 1974.

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Box 2409 D. The Times.

Islington Planning

The Borough, one of seven Inner London Boroughs presents most of the social, economic and physical problems associated with an inner planning. The Council is committed to public participation and regards planning as the process through which the community can determine these problems and improving the quality of life in Islington. The Planning Department co-ordinates the Council's Community Plan and is an essential component of the corporate plan working of the Council.

ASSISTANT BOROUGH PLANNING OFFICERS

PO.5 £5,666-£6,221 p.a. (inclusive)

The senior management structure is responsible for providing the Department's contribution to inter-departmental Working Parties and for the direction of, and effective liaison between, specific policy groups within the Department. They will advise the Council Committee on all aspects of the Department's work according to their respective responsibilities.

The Assistant Borough Planning Officer (Development Control) is primarily concerned with the control of development and local planning. The Assistant Borough Planning Officer (Development Plan) will be concerned with preparation of Borough policies, and for the co-ordination of community plan work.

Each post will be able to call on the professional skills of approximately Group Officers backed by some 80 professional and technical staff.

They will be responsible to the Deputy Borough Planning Officer directly for their area of concern but their exact responsibilities will depend on the complementary skills of the senior management structure.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Borough Planning Officer, 222/228 Essex Road, London N1 3PW. Tel. 01-265 6221 (Ext. 27 or 28). CLOSING DATE 31st October, 1974.

Fisheries Biologist

Australian Department of Agriculture

The FISHERIES DIVISION of the Australian Department of Agriculture offers a permanent career in Canberra for a person who has a degree or diploma in Science, with an appropriate major in Biology, desirably with wide experience in fisheries resource management. The successful applicant will evaluate and provide information on fisheries research findings and investigate unexploited fishery resources.

Salary: Commencing salary will be within the range £12,151-£13,491, at present exchange rate £1 equals \$A1.79.

Normal conditions of service apply including bonus payments on recreation leave and maternity and paternity leave benefits.

Applications will be treated in confidence and should be forwarded to the Recruitment Officer, Public Service Board, Canberra House, 10/16 Maltravers Street, London WC2R 3EH, by 1st November, 1974.

Islington Finance

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Salary:

Principal Officer Grade £5,939 to £6,494 p.a.

Requirements:

Qualifications account with post qualification experience, preferably in a large organization, capable of contributing as a member of the department's top management, to the development of financial policies. The candidate must have a sound knowledge of management and has on-line computer enquiry facilities for financial work. Cash flow exceeds £100,000 per annum with a rapidly expanding capital programme currently £25 million per annum.

Manage the Financial Management and Audit Division (29 staff).

Responsible for an area of work covering major project appraisal, financing proposals, capital investment, financial systems and audit.

Initiate reports on financial matters and responsible for financial implications in other reports.

Will act for Director as appropriate.

Manage facilities as available. The provision of financial advice and assistance with removal expenses will be considered in appropriate cases. Five weeks' annual leave.

Further particulars and application forms from Director of Finance, Town Hall, Upper Street N1 2UD. (Telephone 01-228 1234, ext. 315). Closing date October 25, 1974.

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Box 2409 D. The Times.

Psychologists

A wider career choice in Government Service

The many and varied branches of Government Service activity offer a wide range of opportunities for psychological application, from therapeutic practice to experimental research.

There are now a number of vacancies at two

levels of entry: PSYCHOLOGIST (for which a degree in Psychology with at least second class honours is normally required) and SENIOR PSYCHOLOGIST (for which candidates should, in addition, have at least 3-4 years relevant experience).

Army Manpower Studies

This Senior Psychologist or Psychologist post, based at Farnborough, offers a rare opportunity to break new ground in centralised selection and allocation techniques. You will join a small team extending and improving the use of psychological measurement and similar techniques in this field, and must have a thorough understanding of appropriate statistical and computing procedures (Senior Psychologists must have actual working experience). Test design, development and construction experience would be

valuable.

Prison Staff Training: This Senior Psychologist post at the Prison Staff College, Wakefield, allows considerable scope for developing new psychological techniques in the training field. It is an advisory post and your research findings will be used in the extension and improvement of staff training over a wide range. Experience in occupational psychology would be an advantage.

Industrial Rehabilitation

Occupational Psychology: There are a number of openings throughout the country for Psychologists to undertake vocational guidance and assessment of individuals in Industrial Rehabilitation Units. These posts will appeal to those who are particularly interested in active semi-therapeutic work which tends to be concentrated on interacting problems of personal, motivation and development.

Information and Research: These London-based positions will attract those Psychologists who are enthusiastic to contribute to the development of industrial rehabilitation and employment services (particularly of the disabled), but who prefer a research-oriented role. You will be responsible for collecting comprehensive data in various problem areas, analysing the assembled information, and preparing reports of an advisory nature.

Further vacancies may arise in these or other departments.

Senior Psychologists: from over £3,450 to £4,300. Psychologists: from over £1,950 to around £3,100.

Starting salaries may be above the minimum at each level. Salaries are higher in London. Non-contributory pension scheme. Promotion prospects to posts carrying salaries around £7,900.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 4 November 1974) write to THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, ALLENCON LINK BASINGSTOKE, HANTS, RG21 1B or telephone BASINGSTOKE 29222 ext. 500 (or 24 hour answering service LONDON 01-839 1992). Please quote G(3)635/4.

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£4,860-£5,367 plus £146.16 threshold payments

General Legal Services Division.

To head a major section of the Division dealing principally with land and property matters, forward planning, and general advice to Council Departments, with the opportunity to engage in committee work.

SENIOR ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

(Ref. C3)

£4,230-£4,737 plus £146.16 threshold payments

Service Committees Division.

To be a member of a team providing legal and corporate advice and assistance to a group of service committees including the Education Highways, Leisure Services, Police, Public Protection and Social Services Committees.

The Department comprises four divisions—General Legal Services, Council and Support Committees, Service Committees and Administrative and Common Services, each headed by an Assistant Director directly responsible to the Director of Administration. Persons appointed may be eligible for generous re-location expenses including mortgage facilities, legal and estate agents fees and £250 disturbance allowance.

Humberside County Council

Applications giving full details of experience, qualifications and the names of two referees should be sent to the Director of Administration, Kingston House South, Bond Street, Hull HU1 3EU.

Closing date 21st October, 1974.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

SENIOR ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

Salary: £4,308 to £4,860 p.a.

plus £120 p.a. Outer London Fringe Area Allowance and Threshold Allowance (at present £146 p.a.)

We seek a lawyer with some experience of advocacy and a knowledge of Town Planning. He/she will probably have 3-5 years' admitted experience, which will include litigation in the County and Magistrates' Courts.

The Royal Borough is set in pleasant countryside to the west of London, and is easily accessible by both road and rail.

The Council has adopted a generous scheme of removal and disturbance allowances which may include permanent or temporary housing accommodation, legal and other fees on sale or purchase of accommodation, mortgage bridging loan, legal expenses and removal and settling-in allowances.

Letters of application, giving age, date of admission and details of experience, should reach the Personnel Officer, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1BF by 31 October, 1974, quoting Ref. No. 9.

SOLICITOR WYE VALLEY

Potential litigation partner sought by progressive established practice with offices in this attractive and accessible area.

We need someone with sufficient qualified experience to be able to manage the common law side of our business either immediately or within a reasonable short time. We offer a reasonable starting salary and are looking for a person of the calibre to merit partnership status after a satisfactory probationary period.

Please write, with your curriculum vitae, to Box 2394 D, The Times.

Appointments Vacant also on pages 23 and 24

Peterborough is one of Britain's fastest-growing cities. An old cathedral city which is doubling in size under a massive Government-sponsored New Town programme.

The Development Corporation is the principal planning, building and co-ordinating agency. This involves carrying out a huge building programme, with projects to the value of £35 million completed and in construction, and others to the value of £50 million under design.

An important part of this programme is the designing and building of a wide range of structures in steel, concrete and other materials to fulfil the urgent need for 30,000 new houses, new offices, new factories and new shops. Experienced civil/structural engineers are required to augment a busy well-established structural design section.

Two Senior Engineers

£2,793 - £3,750

plus appropriate threshold payments

To lead small design groups within the section. Applicants should be chartered engineers with experience of working with colleagues in other professions and capable of preparing structural designs for new buildings in reinforced concrete economically and effectively. Experience of design in steel would be an advantage.

Starting salary will be negotiable within the scale given. Generous assistance is given with the cost of moving house if you live more than 20 miles from Peterborough. Temporary subsistence and travelling allowances; free life insurance for staff with dependants; superannuation scheme or pension fund options, and flexible working hours. Temporary or permanent rented accommodation may be available and there is a wide selection of desirable houses to buy at comparatively reasonable prices in the area.

Application forms (returnable by 4th November, 1974) from General Manager, Peterborough Development Corporation, Petercourt, Peterborough PE1 1UJ or ring 0733 603111 Extension 26.

Greater Peterborough

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for a system supporting

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to run on a powerful PDP-11 configuration linked to a 1903T.

This system has been commissioned by BSRA to service a large integrated ship structural design system (SSDS) under development.

We seek people with substantial experience and deep understanding of system design and software design. Permanent and short-term contracts available. The project team is to work under the joint technical management of BSRA and a leading software house.

BSRA is situated on the River Tyne between Newcastle and the Coast, within easy reach of the famous Northumbrian countryside.

Phone Mrs. Goliath (transfer charges) 0632 625242 or write to:

THE BRITISH SHIP RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Wallsend Research Station,
Wallsend, Tyne and Wear,
NE28 6UY.



Senior Assistant Archivist [Cheshire Record Office]

SOG 1, £2,201-£3,573

Applications are invited from qualified Archivists with not less than 5 years experience for the post, ranking deputy to County Archivist. Salary is currently £2,201 to £3,573 but will be subject to review in April, 1975.

Write or telephone for further particulars and application form to The County Secretary, County Hall, Chester. Phone: Chester 402128. Closing date 1st November.

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CONSULTANT

We are an international firm seeking to retain a management consultant to prepare written in-depth analyses and forecasts of selected commercial, industrial and financial sectors.

We prefer a one-man firm and can provide a consulting service on a fee-for-service basis.

Fees are flexible. We will have all results in strict confidence. Write in summarised form to: Frost & Sullivan, 111 Strand, London, WC2R 0AA.

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Highly successful established

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AMERICAN LAW FIRM located S. of London, with 200 clients, with good typing and shorthand. Computer and office equipment. No previous experience not essential. Salary £2,000. Adventure, 839 1478 or 499 6992.

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